Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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FBIS-SOV-95-213 *3 November 1995*

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Key Developments

Decrees on Rejection of Electoral Blocs Published

Rejection of 'Yabloko'

MM0211194395 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Nov 95 p 6

[Decree No. 34/264-II of the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission "On the Rejection of the Registration of the Federal List of Prospective Deputies to the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma Nominated by the '"Yabloko" Public Association' Electoral Association," signed by N.T. Ryabov, chairman of the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission, and A.A. Veshnyakov, secretary of the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission, in Moscow on 29 October]

[FBIS Translated Text] Having examined the documents submitted by the "'Yabloko' Public Association" electoral association for the registration of the federal list of prospective deputies to the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma Second Convocation and checked whether the procedure for nomination by the aforementioned electoral association of the federal list of candidates meets the requirements of the Federal Law "On Elections of Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma Deputies" (hereinafter — the federal law), the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission [TsIK] notes that a 206-man federal list of prospective deputies to run in the federal electoral district elections was nominated by secret ballot at the electoral association's 3 September 1995 congress.

The Russian Federation TsIK issued Decree No. 12/95-II 5 September 1995 certifying this federal list and presented the electoral association's official representative with a certified copy of the list.

After completing their collection of voters' signatures, and in order for the federal list of candidates to be registered, the electoral association's official representatives submitted sheets of signatures in support of the aforesaid list to the Russian Federation TsIK 19 October 1995, along with data on 187 candidates out of the 206 on this federal list, including 186 personal declarations of consent by the candidates to run on the federal list.

The electoral association's official representatives submitted the following "Yabloko" Public Association Central Council Office decision in respect of 19 candidates instead of the data prescribed by Article 42 Section 1 of the federal law:

"They are deemed to have withdrawn from the federal list of candidates for the federal electoral district certified by the Russian Federation TsIK (Ruling 12-95 of 5 September 1995):

"— on the basis of their own applications in connection with personal circumstances in accordance with Appendix 1 (Footnote) (Not published);

"— in connection with the candidates' failure to submit declarations of consent to run on the 'Yabloko' electoral association's federal list, in accordance with Appendix 2." (Footnote) (Not published). Appendix 2 named 15 candidates.

However, it emerges from personal statements made by S.P. Dudkin, S.L. Yakovlev, L.V. Grishayenko, A.A. Kalashnikova, V.I. Falko, and Yu.F. Kaznin that the aforesaid candidates, who were identified by the "Yabloko" Public Association Central Council Office decision as failing to submit declarations of consent to run on the "Yabloko" Electoral Association federal list, have submitted such declarations.

In thus changing the composition of the federal list contrary to the wishes of the candidates on the list, the electoral association violated Article 37 of the federal law, whereby the composition of this list and the procedure governing the inclusion of candidates thereon cannot be changed once the federal list has been submitted to the Russian Federation TsIK, with the exception of changes due to the withdrawal of candidates, and also the requirements of Article 1 of this law regarding the voluntary nature of citizens' participation in elections.

On the basis of the aforesaid, guided by the requirements of Article 42, Section 2 of the federal law "On Elections of Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma Deputies," the Russian Federation TsIK decrees that:

1. The "'Yabloko' Public Association" electoral association is to be refused registration of its federal list of candidates.

2. This decree is to be published in the VESTNIK TSENTRALNOY IZBIRATELNOY KOMISSII ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII journal and ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA.

[Signed] Russian Federation TsIK Chairman N.T. Ryabov
Russian Federation TsIK Secretary A.A. Veshnyakov
[Dated] Moscow, 29 October 1995
No. 34/264-II

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Rejection of 'Derzhava'

MM0211145395 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Nov 95 p 5

[Decree of the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission No. 33/257-II "On the Rejection of the Registration of the Federal List of Candidate Deputies to the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma Nominated by the '"Derzhava" Social Patriotic Movement' Electoral Association" signed by N.T. Ryabov, chairman of the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission, and A.A. Veshnyakov, secretary of the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission, in Moscow on 28 October]

[FBIS Translated Text] Having checked whether the procedure whereby the "'Derzhava' Social Patriotic Movement" put forward its federal list of candidate deputies to the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma, second convocation, meets the requirements of the Federal Law "On the Election of Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma Deputies" (hereinafter the Federal Law) and having verified the documents for the registration of the federal list of candidates, the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission [TsIK] notes that the congress of the aforementioned electoral association held a secret ballot 9 September 1995 whereby it adopted a decision on the presentation of a federal list of 270 candidate deputies for the federal electoral district.

In the manner prescribed by the federal law a copy of this list as certified by the Russian Federation TsIK on 12 September 1995 was issued to the electoral association's official representative and published in the mass media.

On the basis of the certified copy of the federal list information on the first three candidates heading the federal section of the list and also on the three candidates heading the corresponding regional sections of the list was inserted in the signature lists.

However, for the purpose of registering the federal list of candidates the aforementioned electoral association submitted to the Russian Federation TsIK information on only 184 of the 270 candidates and their declarations of consent to run for election on the federal list.

By decision of the "'Derzhava' Social Patriotic Movement" National Committee Presidium of 15 October 1995, the federal list of candidates was reduced by 86. The candidates in question include people among the first three names heading the federal and regional sections of the list which was used to collect voters' signatures on the lists in support of this association.

Voters' signatures were collected in support of a federal list which to a considerable extent consists of people who will not be running for election on that list, which the Russian Federation TsIK regards as deception of the voters who agreed to sign the signature lists in support of the federal list.

Of the 184 candidates included on the federal list put forward by the electoral association, 30 candidates had not submitted genuine declarations of consent to run in the elections on the federal list as required by Section 1 of Article 42 of the Federal Law by the time that the TsIK examined the question of the registration of the list.

The decision of the "'Derzhava' Social Patriotic Movement" National Committee of 15 October 1995, which is essentially amounts to a withdrawal of candidate deputies, contravenes Section 7 of Article 44 of the Federal Law, which states that by the prescribed deadline and on the decision of the official organ an electoral association may withdraw only candidates registered on the federal list, and Section 3 of Article 37 of the Federal Law, which states that after the submission of the federal list to the Russian Federation TsIK for the verification of its copy the composition of the list and the procedure for the inclusion of candidates on it may not be changed except in the case of the withdrawal of candidates.

In addition, the Russian Federation TsIK has received statements from citizens on their inclusion on the electoral association's federal list without their personal consent, which contravenes Article 1 of the Federal Law as well as Articles 2 and 3 of the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees of the Electoral Rights of Citizens of the Russian Federation."

On the basis of the above and guided by Article 42 of the Federal Law "On Elections of Deputies to the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma," the Russian Federation TsIK decrees that:

1. The registration of the "'Derzhava" Social Patriotic Movement" electoral association federal list of candidate deputies to the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma is rejected.

2. The present decree is to be published in the journal VESTNIK TSENTRALNOY IZBIRATELNOY KOMISSII ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII and in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA.

[Signed] Russian Federation TsIK Chairman N.T. Ryabov
Russian Federation TsIK Secretary A.A. Veshnyakov
[Dated] Moscow, 28 October 1995

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Decree No. 33/257 II

Rejection of 'Bloc of Independents'

MM0211151895 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Nov 95 p 5

[Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission Decree No. 32/253 "On the Refusal To Register the Federal List of Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma Candidate Deputies Put Forward by the 'Bloc of Independents' Electoral Bloc," signed by Electoral Commission Chairman Ryabov and Secretary Veshnyakov in Moscow on 27 October]

[FBIS Translated Text] Having examined the documents supplied by the "Bloc of Independents" electoral bloc for the registration of its federal list of candidate deputies for the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma, second convocation, and having verified that the procedure used by this electoral association for nominating its federal list corresponds to the requirements of the federal law "On the Election of Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma Deputies" (hereinafter the federal law), the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission [TsIK] has established that:

At its 27 September 1995 congress the electoral bloc nominated a federal list of 161 candidates. Defining the procedure for placing candidates on the list, the electoral bloc completely broke the list down into 34 regional groups of candidates (broken down by Russian Federation component and groups of Russian Federation components).

On 3 October 1995 the Russian Federation TsIK certified this federal list under its decree No. 23/196 and issued a certified copy of the list to an authorized representative of the electoral bloc.

On 17 October 1995 authorized representatives of the electoral bloc submitted to the Russian Federation TsIK signature sheets in support of the federal list of candidates, and information on 119 of the candidates on the federal list, including 119 personal statements by the candidates on their consent to run on the federal list.

Information on the [other] 42 candidates who were on the federal list during the period while voters' signatures were being collected in its support was not submitted to the Russian Federation TsIK.

Instead of these documents, the authorized representatives of the electoral bloc submitted the electoral bloc's council decision of 14 October 1995 on changes to the federal list of candidates; it reads as follows: "In connection with candidate deputies running as independents in single-seat districts, and the failure to provide hand-written statements and information on the candidate deputies in the form required, the following persons should be excluded from the federal list."

Checks into whether the procedure for nominating the federal list of candidates corresponded to the requirements of the federal law "On the Election of Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma Deputies" have shown that the "Bloc of Independents" Electoral Bloc violated the electoral rights of Russian Federation citizens.

In accordance with Article 3 of the federal law "On Basic Guarantees of Russian Federation Citizens' Rights" a Russian Federation citizen's participation in elections is voluntary. But the "Bloc of Independents" violated this fundamental principle. When nominating the federal list of candidates it included on it citizens who had not given their consent to this.

The Russian Federation TsIK received appeals from A.Ye. Vasilkovskiy, V.I. Baryshev, G.S. Kalistratov, and others saying that they had not given their consent to being included on the "Bloc of Independents" federal list.

Thus the collection of voters' signatures was carried out in support of a "Bloc of Independents" federal list consisting of people who, in accordance with the Federal Law "On the Election of Deputies to the State Duma of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly," could not be included in the federal list since they had been nominated in single-seat electoral districts directly by voters, as well as people who were unaware of their inclusion in the federal list, which cannot be regarded as anything other than deception of voters who had agreed to support this federal list.

In light of the foregoing and being guided by Article 42 of the federal law "On the Election of Deputies to the State Duma of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly," the Russian Federation TsIK decrees that:

The "Bloc of Independents" electoral bloc is refused registration of its federal list of candidates for deputy to the Second State Duma of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly.

[Signed] Russian Federation TsIK Chairman N.T. Ryabov
Russian Federation TsIK Secretary A.A. Veshnyakov
[Dated] Moscow, 27 October 1995
Decree No. 32/253

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Supreme Court Overrules Decision on 'We Serve Russia!'

LD0211130095 Moscow INFORMATSIONNOYE AGENTSTVO EKHO MOSKVY in Russian 1150 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Supreme Court declared illegal the Central Electoral Commission's decision not to accept the signature lists of the We Serve Russia! electoral bloc (led by Nikolay [as received] Nenashev), an Ekho Moskvy radio station correspondent reported from the Supreme Court.

The court decision obliges the Central Electoral Commission to accept all the documentation of the bloc by 4 November.

TsIK Registers 'Stable Russia,' Rejects 'Salvation Front'

LD0211193595 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Central Electoral Commission [TsIK] at its session today registered the federal list of the Stable Russia electoral association, whose leader is Oleg Petrov, but refused to register the People's Salvation Front electoral association, whose leader is Valeriy Smirnov. The reason for the refusal is the insufficient number of signatures submitted to support the list.

The Central Electoral Commission has also adopted a decision to send the documents of the People's Salvation Front electoral association to the General Prosecutor's Office for checking. Thus, by 2 November, the Central Electoral Commission has registered the federal lists of 36 and refused to register the lists of seven electoral associations and blocs out of the 43 which have submitted their lists of signatures.

More Blocs Registered, Rejected

MK0311104495 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 2 Nov 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Central Electoral Commission's New Victims"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At yesterday's meeting of the Central Electoral Commission [TsIK], the list of "refuseniks" was further replenished: The list of candidates from the "Union of Patriots" bloc, headed by Vladislav Achalov and Aleksandr Sterligov, was refused registration. A declaration of bloc leaders was voiced at the meeting whereby the "patriots" refused to register "in solidarity with the 'Derzhava' association and for the sake of preserving the unity of patriotic forces." They were refused, however, for quite a different reason: First, inspection revealed that the bloc failed to collect the required 200,000 signatures, and, second, cases of bribing voters while collecting signatures were disclosed. Documents on these facts were passed to the General Prosecutor's Office. At the same time, the TsIK registered "Stanislav Govorukhin's Bloc," the "Communists — Working Russia — For the Soviet Union" bloc, the "Transformation of the Homeland" bloc, and the "Interethnic Union" bloc. In total, as of Wednesday [1 November] evening, the list of registered electoral slates included 35 names. A decision on the "Stable Russia" association and the "National Salvation Front" bloc is to be made at the TsIK's meeting today. It also became known that yesterday the TsIK, in compliance with a court ruling, accepted signature lists of the Federal Democratic Movement and the bloc whose name comprises 38 words and is called for practical purposes "the bloc of disabled persons."

Yabloko Supporter Demands Compensation for Refusal

LD0311101595 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0900 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Today, the Supreme Court began examining the appeals by the electoral blocs Yabloko, Derzhava, and the lawyers association. You may recall that the Central Electoral Commission has refused to register them. In the case of Yabloko, the reason was that six people had been excluded from the federal list without their consent. Let me point out that if the Supreme Court upholds the decision taken by the Central Electoral Commission, another electoral bloc, Yegor Gaydar's Russia's Democratic Choice, will also withdraw from the elections. Aleksey Venediktov reports on the opening of the court hearings.

[Venediktov] The duty policeman has told me that the Supreme Court has not seen such media presence since the first days of the SCSE case. Surrounded by supporters, Aleksandr Rutskoy went to the second floor and Grigoriy Yavlinskiy to the third. Their appeals against the decision by the Central Electoral Commission not to register Derzhava and Yabloko started almost simultaneously. However, the first testimony at the Yabloko hearings brought a surprise. Kharchenko, a Moscow voter, one of nearly a million voters who had backed Yabloko lists, has concluded that the actions by the Ryabov team are undermining his electoral rights and has added his individual complaint to Yavlinskiy's appeal. Incidently, Kharchenko is demanding 50 million rubles in compensation for moral damage caused by the Central Commission's refusal. One of the court officials remarked philosophically that if the court rules in his favor, not even the entire state budget will be suffi-

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cient because every one of the million wronged voters could demand similar compensation. Experienced legal experts believe that the case could be lengthy.

Electoral Blocs React to Decision on Yabloko

LD0211222895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2037 GMT 2 Nov 95

[By Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 2 (ITAR-TASS) — The Democratic Party of Russia won't back Russia's Democratic Choice bloc in its bid to convene an extraordinary meeting of the State Duma to challenge the recent denial of registration for the elections to the liberal Yabloko bloc, said party leader Stanislav Govorukhin.

Govorukhin, a film-maker who leads Stanislav Govorukhin Bloc, recapitulated to reporters the initiative of Russia's Choice chaired by Yegor Gaydar.

Russia's Democratic Choice wants to motion to the State Duma, or the lower house, an amendment to the election law to allow electoral blocs to introduce changes to their federal lists at the phase of signature collection, or prior to registration by the central electoral commission.

Govorukhin said he did not see anything wrong with the commission's refusal to register the Yabloko bloc led by liberal economist Grigoriy Yavlinskiy on the grounds that in dropping from its lists six candidates the bloc did not come up with required papers.

"The Central Electoral Commission may not be disrespected," Govorukhin said.

He voiced confidence that his bloc, which was registered on Wednesday [1 November] with 117 candidates on its federal lists, would clear the five per cent hurdle, or five per cent of the vote required for a bloc to get parliament seats.

He said the bloc pinned hopes on its 25 runners in one-mandate constituencies.

Their electioneering motto will be Let us Stop the Criminal Revolution, said Govorukhin, whose refrain in TV appearances and public addresses is Russia's heavy crime and inability of authorities to curb it.

Meanwhile, the Democratic Russia and Free Unions bloc reaffirmed today that it had called off the registration of its nation-wide list and called on its electorate to vote for the Yabloko bloc.

Galina Starovoytova, Lev Ponomaryov and Gleb Yakunin, the leaders of the bloc, told a news conference today that the bloc would not quit the contest by the majority vote, leaving up to ten candidates in each of its constituencies.

Ponomaryov called this decision "dramatic, but solely reasonable in the circumstances".

Asked why Democratic Russia and Free Unions decided to co-run with Yabloko, Starovoytova explained that her bloc had been negotiating an alliance with the Yavlinskiy-led bloc before it was denied the registration.

She said Russia's Choice was also approached, but preference was after all given to Yabloko because Starovoytova said "this movement is like us in opposition to the government and the president".

The leaders of Democratic Russia hinted that their political alliance with Yabloko was possible in the presidential election ahead in 1996.

Russia's Choice Calls For Special Duma Session

LD0211164595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1507 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 2 (INTERFAX) — Deputy Chairman of the Russia's Choice faction in the State Duma Boris Zolotukhin has sent a letter to all State Duma factions and groups of deputies, except the Liberal Democratic Party faction, suggesting that they support a motion to hold a special State Duma session.

Such a session should be held to discuss amendments to the present law on elections to the State Duma, Zolotukhin told INTERFAX Thursday.

According to him, the lower house of Russia's Federal Assembly must also consider the possibility of reverting to the draft bill on public control over parliamentary elections worked out by Viktor Sheinis of the YaBLoko faction. The State Duma rejected the draft bill on two occasions.

The present law on elections to the State Duma guarantees election associations the right to recall their representatives from the federal list of candidates only after its being registered by the Central Electoral Commission, Zolotukhin pointed out.

As he said, the Russia's Choice faction intends to insist on making an amendment to that law to enable election associations to recall their representatives from the federal list before it gets registered by the Central Electoral Commission. In Zolotukhin's view, the lack of such stipulation made it possible for the Central Electoral Commission to refuse to register YaBLoko on the basis of formal fault-finding.

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According to Zolotukhin, his suggestion has already been approved by the leader of the YaBLoko faction Grigoriy Yavlinskiy and by the head of the Russian Unity and Accord (RUA) [PRES] faction Sergey Shakhray. Consultations with them are continuing. The consultations may be concluded with the adoption of joint decisions with YaBLoko and RUA, when the leader of Russia's Choice Yegor Gaydar returns to Moscow from his tour of the country Thursday evening, Zolotukhin said.

Chernomyrdin, Zyuganov Discuss Regional Issues

LD0211214595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1955 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 2 (INTERFAX) — At their Thursday meeting in Moscow Prime Minister and leader of Our Home is Russia movement Viktor Chernomyrdin and Communist Party leader Gennadiy Zyuganov discussed primarily the current social and economic difficulties of the Urals, Siberia and the Far East, areas recently visited by Zyuganov.

The initiative for the meeting came from the government, the Communist leader told INTERFAX. He added that earlier the leadership of his party suggested informing the prime minister about the results of election visits to the provinces.

Chernomyrdin and Zyuganov also discussed the election campaign. "There are alarming groups, attempts to discredit the election law, foil the elections, provoke scandals — we are against them," Zyuganov emphasized.

He also told Chernomyrdin that Communists have information about possible provocations in Moscow during the upcoming celebration of the 78th anniversary of the October revolution. "I asked the prime minister for appropriate steps to be taken by all agencies responsible for public order and security," Zyuganov said.

Asked whether they discussed the health of the president, the Communist leader said he and Chernomyrdin both felt that "destructive forces must not use the president's illness to fan hysteria and undermine stability in the Russian Federation."

Zyuganov informed the prime minister about his recent visit to Minsk, where he met Communist leaders from Ukraine and Belarus and attended a round table meeting on the reunification of Russia and Belarus.

Zyuganov Voices Support for Electoral Law

LD0211221295 Moscow NTV in Russian 2100 GMT 2 Nov 95

[From the "Today at Midnight" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer Aleksandr Shashkov] Gennadiy Zyuganov, leader of one of the major electoral associations, the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, has even accused those who favor changing the electoral law, that means the State Duma speaker, of basic incompetence.

[Begin Zyuganov recording] You will have noticed that almost everyone is making a fuss, but look at the results of voting on that law: It was adopted almost unanimously. Three hundred amendments were made to it, everyone who could made an amendment. The law has been signed, adopted, agreed, everyone has begun campaigning. But after one bloc made a bad job of collecting signatures, another did not draw up the documents, and a third sees that it has no prospects, a powerful attack begins on the law.

Either we are going to live by the law or by decree. We are in favor of living by the law. Whatever it is, the law in any Duma, in any body, is a compromise between different political forces, strictly speaking this law is no exception. But we are ready for the elections to be held in accordance with the law. Whoever now thinks that changes can be introduced does not even know the lawmaking, legislative process. It is impossible to introduce anything. Changes can be introduced for the holding of the next elections, not these. [end recording]

[Shashkov] On Thursday, Zyuganov met the leader of another electoral association — which is also one of the major ones — Russia Is Our Home, although, according to Viktor Chernomyrdin's press service, it was a regular meeting between the prime minister and the leader of one of the Duma factions. The rivals in the struggle for seats in parliament discussed the progress of the electoral campaign and the socioeconomic situation in Russia's eastern regions.

[Begin Zyuganov recording] I have just been to the Far East, to Siberia, Transbaykal, and the Urals. That is 15 or so major industrial centers. I had meetings at academies, factories, in farms, with business people, and everywhere the same painful problems, the state of production, the large number of jobless, the lack of real preparation for the winter, and many others. So there cannot be a political election campaign without discussion of these problems and answers to very specific questions. [end recording]

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CPRF Candidate Nazarov Attacked in Moscow

LD0311111195 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0900 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Yuriy Nazarov, a well known actor and candidate in the Duma elections from the Communist Party of the Russian Federation [CPRF], was attacked last night [2 November] in Moscow. Anton Vasilchenko, spokesman from the Communist Party press service, gave us some details.

[Begin Vasilchenko recording] The attack took place near the Kiyevskiy train station, in the entrance of a building on Bryanskaya Street. He received several blows with brass knuckles and was also kicked in the face. It seems to us this is not a simple robbery because only a bag was taken, and two big men with brass knuckles could have managed without violence. Also, some relatively expensive items were left untouched. He may have suffered a concussion, but this is being verified right now. There is reason to believe that this was not simply a criminal attack but an incident linked to Yuriy Nazarov's political activities. [end recording]

KRO Rules Out Cooperation in Single-Seat Districts

LD0211210795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1615 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 2 (INTERFAX) — The Congress of Russian Communities (CRC) [KRO] has ruled out the possibility of concluding agreements with other political associations to withdraw candidates in single-mandate districts so as to avoid direct competition, the CRC's spokesman Vladimir Klimov told INTERFAX Thursday.

To do so now that the election race has already started would be a tactical mistake, he said.

Earlier, a source in the Congress said that "the Congress of Russian Communities and the Communists might act jointly during parliamentary elections." Commenting on this statement, leader of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation Gennadiy Zyuganov told INTERFAX that an agreement between the Communist Party and the Agrarian Party not to advance their candidates in the same single-mandate districts might serve as an example of such cooperation. A similar agreement might be reached with the Congress of Russian Communities, he said.

"We rule out such cooperation" said Klimov. He said, however, that the Congress of Russian Communities, as a supra-party organization, is ready to work with all organizations sharing similar ideas, including the Communist Party. "Cooperation with other politicians will not affect our strategy," he said.

He announced that Congress leaders Yuriy Skokov and Aleksandr Lebed were expected to arrive in Moscow in a few days.

LDPR Accuses Russia's Choice of Premature Campaigning

LD0211201595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1507 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 2 (INTERFAX) — LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy lodged a complaint to the CEC [Central Electoral Commission] about premature pre-election campaigning by the Democratic Choice of Russia bloc, CEC member Raif Bektagirov reported at a press conference Elections-95: Openness and New Prospects held Thursday.

Representatives of the LDPR cited a food shop in Moscow's Cheryomushkiy district where a pre-election placard of Russia's Choice was used to wrap food products. As a result, every buyer received a placard of this election bloc. This is a violation of the law on elections regarding premature pre-election campaigning, Zhirinovskiy said.

An election association or a bloc can wage pre-election campaigning only after its federal lists are registered in line with the law on elections.

The CEC forwarded Zhirinovskiy's complaint to the Moscow electoral commission to verify the facts, Bektagirov underlined.

Zhirinovskiy: 'LDPR Is the Only Opposition Party'

LD0111212195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1843 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 1 (INTERFAX) — The Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR) does not have political allies among Russia's parties and movements, LDPR leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy told a news conference in Moscow Wednesday [1 November].

Zhirinovskiy said the "right wing" (Yegor Gaydar's Russia's Choice, Boris Fyodorov's Forward Russia, Irina Khakamada's Common Cause, Konstantin Borovoy's Economic Freedom Party) cannot be allies of the "honest and clean LDPR," since it encompasses all those to blame for the "break-up of the country and its economy, those who let out the outrage of crime."

The leftist parties are also "not good" because their ideological and party interests are placed above those of the people, Zhirinovskiy said. The Communist Party of Russia (KPRF) [CPRF] and other communist-minded

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movements are already using nationalist ideas and support private property, that is "they hide behind other people's ideas and do not need proletarian dictatorship and class struggle any longer," he added.

"If you become a social democratic or conservative party, dare to say it outright," Zhirinovskiy suggested. He blamed KPRF leader Gennadiy Zyuganov for "having his breakfast in the U.S. embassy, his dinner in that of the U.K. and cocktails in that of France." According to Zhirinovskiy, the LDPR is the only opposition party, because it does not have a single member in government, "nor a local administration head or a sauna director."

Zhirinovskiy was confident that the elections will be held and that President Boris Yeltsin will recover.

Borovoy: PES Aims To 'Rehabilitate Democracy'

LD0211210895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1615 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 2 (INTERFAX) — The main goal of the Economic Freedom Party (EFP) [PES—Partiya ekonomicheskoy svobody] at the upcoming parliamentary elections is to "rehabilitate democracy and democratic political parties in Russia," EFP leader Konstantin Borovoy told a news conference Thursday.

EFP is "the only opposition force to Communists and Fascists in Russia" and hopes to win at least 5% of votes and thus get representation in the State Duma, he said.

EFP relies on the support of a most broad electorate, Borovoy said. According to him, EFP is competing successfully in various constituencies with the Russian Communist Party (Gennadiy Zyuganov) and with the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (Vladimir Zhirinovskiy). EFP expects to get support from part of the electorate of Russia's Democratic Choice (Yegor Gaydar) which "cannot hope for success."

In addition to Borovoy, Duma deputy Leonid Nekrasov and head of the Zhukovskiy Air Force Engineering Academy Vladimir Kovalenok are at the top of the EFP federal list of candidates for parliament. However, according to Borovoy, Kovalenok will revoke his bid because he is seriously ill and doctors object to his participation in the election campaign.

Ryzhkov: Opposition Blocs Must Unite in New Duma

LD0111183395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1602 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 1 (INTERFAX) — Russia's Communist Party, the Agrarian party, the Power to the People bloc and several other large opposition blocs "not disposed to extremism" must unite in the new State Duma if that body is to have any influence, former Soviet Prime Minister Nikolay Ryzhkov, leader of the Power to the People bloc said at a press conference in the State Duma Wednesday.

"The opposition should be united," he said, because only the disarray in the opposition forces hinders stabilizing the situation in the country. As a result, "the people are restless," Ryzhkov said.

The Power to the People bloc "is starting its official election campaign this very day," Ryzhkov declared. Members of the association will start trips throughout Russia's regions.

Ryzhkov plans to organize a round table in a television program in late November which would gather different politicians. "We do not intend to pour dirt on each other, we propose other methods. Let the voters understand who is who and make conclusions during our debates," Ryzhkov said.

Pamfilova-Gurov-Lysenko Bloc Changes Name

MM0211141595 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Nov 95 p 6

[Decree No. 33/261-II of the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission "On Amplifying the Name of the 'Pamfilova-Gurov-Lysenko (Republican Party of the Russian Federation)' Electoral Bloc," signed by N.T. Ryabov, chairman of the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission, and A.A. Veshnyakov, secretary of the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission, in Moscow on 28 October]

[FBIS Translated Text] In accordance with the request of the "Pamfilova-Gurov-Lysenko (Republic Party of the Russian Federation)" electoral bloc for the name of this electoral bloc to be amplified, mindful of Ruling No. 27 (64) of the Russian Federation Presidential Court of Appeal for Information Disputes of 22 September 1995, in amendment of Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission Ruling No. 15/118-II of 12 September 1995 "On the Registration of the 'Pamfilova-Gurov-Lysenko (Republican Party of the Russian Federation)' Electoral Bloc for the Elections of Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma Deputies," the Central Electoral Commission decrees that:

1. The name of the "Pamfilova-Gurov-Lysenko (Republican Party of the Russian Federation)" electoral bloc is to be amplified to be called the "Pamfilova-Gurov-Vladimir Lysenko (Republican Party of the Russian Federation)" electoral bloc.

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2. This decree is to be published in the VESTNIK TSENTRALNOY IZBIRATELNOY KOMISSII ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII and ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA.

[Signed] Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission Chairman N.T. Ryabov
Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission Secretary A.A. Veshnyakov
[Dated] Moscow, 28 October 1995
No. 33/261-II

Forecasts & Commentary

Dorenko Interviews Chernomyrdin's 'Image-Maker'

LD0311100695

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow NTV in Russian at 2120 GMT on 1 November during its "Versions" program carries an 8-minute interview with Sergey Koptev, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's publicity agent or image-maker. Image-makers are now coming into their own as the election campaign gets under way in "Russia, the land of ingenuous and frank politicians. Even when they are talking the most complete and utter rubbish, they believe it themselves," host Sergey Dorenko reflects, following video clips of Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov clowning about and of Chernomyrdin falling straight into a correspondent's trap with a tricky question.

"Working as an image-maker with these raw characters must be terribly difficult," Dorenko says. Koptev responds that as an adman, he nevertheless had to have proper material to work with. One of Chernomyrdin's problematic habits is his tendency to speak only in verbs, but this Koptev regards as being a positive feature in a way because in the present election campaign public speaking skills are less important than the sincerity evident in a politician's eyes and expression.

Koptev has taken leave from his advertising firm to run Chernomyrdin's campaign, Dorenko points. The campaign poster Koptev's team has devised — "If your home is dear to you" — shows Chernomyrdin with hands raised forming a roof-shape, over the Russia Is Our Home logo, against a background of Russia's and the party's color of white, blue, and just a touch of red. "Very little of the worrying red color, the palms protecting something fragile, and stern brows indicating that with a hero like this, everything will be all right, and even the submarines and missiles will be in the right place when they are needed. Simple and understandable, like a Snickers or Twix label," Dorenko observes.

All the big names have image-makers for the campaign, Dorenko says, adding with glee that he is just waiting for one of them to make a huge blunder and get the ads mixed up.

Daily Views Ryabov's Career Moves

MM0211103395 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by Sergey Chugayev: "Central Electoral Commission Chairman Always Manages To Replace 'Boss' at the Right Time"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The scandal that has broken out over the Central Electoral Commission's decision to refuse to register the "Yabloko" party has clearly shown that the commission's chairman is quite worthy of being included in the country's top five leaders who have the greatest real political influence. Five years ago N. Ryabov, 44-year-old deputy director of an agricultural secondary school in the settlement of Gigant in Rostov Oblast, could scarcely have dreamed of such an unprecedentedly brilliant career.

Entering the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet in 1990 as an ordinary deputy without any links in Moscow or powerful patrons, he was the only legislator to soar in three years to the very pinnacle of parliament — to the post of deputy speaker. After the Supreme Soviet was disbanded Ryabov was again the only one of its leaders at the time it was disbanded to be promoted. He now holds in his hands the fate of parties, the fate of the elections, and essentially the political fate of the country.

When studying this career phenomenon, most experts agree that political wisdom, farsightedness, talent, and a brilliant education are not the current Central Electoral Commission chairman's most outstanding qualities. Ryabov owes his rapid rise to three qualities above all. First, he has never refused the most thankless task and has tried to do it as well as possible. Second, he is disciplined and absolutely obedient to his "boss." Third, he has the ability to promptly sense the time when he needs to change his "boss." Then he changes him decisively, quickly, and without regrets, simultaneously changing his own way of thinking and political predilections.

The first such change was recorded soon after the former agricultural secondary school deputy director and former secretary of his party organization obtained a deputy's seat and started working in the Supreme Soviet Legislation Committee, headed at that time by the influential S. Shakhray. On 21 August 1991 Ryabov left the CPSU. This step and his diligent work in the

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committee were valued by the "Democratic Russia" leaders who then dominated parliament. With this movement's support Ryabov took his first serious step in his political career — he replaced V. Isakov in the post of chairman of one of the Supreme Soviet's chambers, the Soviet of the Republic. Ryabov remained just as diligent in his new post. Former members of the USSR Supreme Soviet vividly recall how he brutally dissolved the Union parliament.

But his love affair with the democrats soon ended. R. Khasbulatov began the war against the president. One after another B. Yeltsin's supporters began leaving the parliamentary leadership. First Deputy Speaker S. Filatov, Vice Speaker V. Shumeyko, Vice Speaker Yu. Yarov.... In short, brilliant vacancies were opening up and Khasbulatov's victory seemed certain. In other words, there was every reason to switch to the opposition camp. At the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies in December 1992 Ryabov became deputy head of the Russian parliament. After this appointment the Supreme Soviet leadership became monolithically pro-Khasbulatov.

In the days of the March 1993 political crisis Ryabov was one of the main protagonists in the "president-parliament" conflict. On 10 March at the eighth, extraordinary, Congress Ryabov delivered the main report, which was aimed at preventing a referendum on confidence in the president and parliament at all costs. Typically, at the previous, seventh, Congress Ryabov supported the idea of a referendum.

His report at the eighth Congress surprised observers and participants by its toughness in relation to the president. Here are a few extracts from it: "As the guarantor of national accord the Congress is bound to exercise its powers to prevent a direct appeal to the people from those political forces which would like to destroy Russia's existing constitutional order....Attempts to use a referendum to artificially prolong or strengthen the powers of particular power structures and especially figures is an impermissible practice." At the end of the day Ryabov virtually came out and called Yeltsin a political adventurist.

As you will recall, the decision to cancel the referendum adopted by the Congress after this report prompted Yeltsin to make his 20 March television appeal to the people. At the ninth, extraordinary Congress which took place immediately after this, Ryabov appeared as the author of the decree "On Immediate Measures To Preserve the Constitutional Order," which essentially turned the president into a decorative figure and transferred the full extent of his power to Supreme Soviet chiefs.

But after Yeltsin's victory in the April referendum Ryabov began to look toward the Kremlin increasingly noticeably. He ostentatiously supported the constitutional conference idea proposed by Yeltsin and began urging his colleagues to take account of the referendum's results. All this made Khasbulatov, who realized too late how he had miscalculated in making Ryabov his deputy, fly into a furious rage. But the die was cast. Khasbulatov's monolithic team at the head of the Supreme Soviet — Yu. Voronin, V. Syrovatko, N. Ryabov — was split, which in many respects assisted the final collapse of the former parliament. Ryabov spent the October days in the president's entourage.

As usual the latest change of "boss" brought another promotion. The president appointed Ryabov chairman of a powerful department — the Central Electoral Commission. The chief of the country's main electoral commission was again set what was in all respects a difficult task: to ensure that elections and, most importantly, a referendum on a new Constitution, were held. The president's appointee coped with the task. The referendum was declared valid although its official results have not been published to this day. The elections also took place. So many violations and irregularities were discovered in the process that well-known election expert A. Sobyanin was even able to publish a book based on these cases, entitled "Democracy Restricted by Falsification." The book proves, in particular, that the phenomenon of the "party that won the elections," as V. Zhirinovskiy likes to call the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, was created artificially thanks to the Central Electoral Commission's efforts.

N. Ryabov is now preparing for new elections. The furor over the refusal to register "Yabloko" has graphically shown what great potential the Central Electoral Commission has. The department will become even more powerful after it gets the automated "Elections" system. This is due to happen on the eve of the presidential election. But the "Yabloko" incident makes us wonder about something else too: Which team is Ryabov, a man who holds the fate of the future presidential elections in his hands, actually playing for at the moment?

The experience of studying the Central Electoral Commission chairman's career shows that the average periodicity with which he has changed "bosses" and obtained a promotion is approximately two years. In December it will be exactly two years since Ryabov took up his present post.

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Editor Sees Derzhava's Fate as Key Political Test

MK0311104595 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Nov 95 p 1

[Commentary by Vitaliy Tretyakov, chief editor: "Yeltsin, Chernomyrdin, and Rutskoy. Let Us Watch the Fate of 'Derzhava' — It Is Really Important"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA predicted the day before yesterday, in spite of his illness, Russian President Boris Yeltsin expressed his outrage over the decision by the Central Electoral Commission [TsIK] to deny registration to a number of election blocs. Clearly, in this instance the president is not concerned about the political difference between "Yabloko" and "Derzhava." First, this should really be all the same to the guarantor of democracy (Boris Yeltsin's main role today).

Second, Aleksandr Rutskoy with his "Derzhava" does not represent a real danger personally to Boris Yeltsin, although potentially it may look substantial (but Rutskoy has negligible chances of implementing it with a capable Yeltsin).

Nonetheless, a final decision of the Supreme Court or the TsIK on "Derzhava" (with "Yabloko" things are already clear) will be extremely important. Why, you may ask? Because neither the Supreme Court nor the TsIK, naturally being as above suspicion as Caesar's wife, cannot but orient themselves, apart from the law, toward a certain political expediency. In this particular instance this expediency consists in only one thing. If for some reason the incumbent president loses his legal capacity, then Aleksandr Rutskoy's semiforgotten position — vice president — which was abolished not quite legally, will sparkle with such bright political facets that it could make the prime minister's position lose its luster.

According to confidential sources, although the original concern about the outcome of Boris Yeltsin's illness was very great, now it has in effect subsided. True, observant watchers have noted the excessive animation of some key figures in the [Russian] White House (while the prime minister himself did not utter any risky phrases even in private).

One way or another, the fate of the Rutskoy bloc will remain a key test for clarifying the depth of various political layers in present-day Moscow.

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Grachev on CIS Defense Meeting, NATO Expansion

LD0211203495 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 2 Nov 95

[Report from the "Vesti" newscast including recorded remarks by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Announcer] A sitting of the CIS council of prime ministers will be held in Moscow tomorrow. The problem of expanding the economic integration will be discussed. Before the meeting of prime ministers, CIS defense ministers held their meeting in Moscow.

[R. Babayan, reporting from the venue] Only the Georgian and Moldovan defense ministers did not come to Moscow. There were 26 items on the meeting's agenda. Russian Defense Minister Grachev opened the sitting. After one and a half hours' session behind the closed doors the ministers had a break during which Pavel Grachev answered a few questions for the Vesti:

[Babayan, talking to Grachev] Will you tell us, please, what was discussed and what preliminary results have already been achieved. What are you expecting to achieve by the end of the sitting?.

[Grachev] So far, we have discussed only three issues: one question is on helping servicemen's families, in the form of compensation, in such cases as death or transporting bodies from one [CIS] state to another. For example, we had a case where several men did not want to serve in Kazakhstan and ran across to us, to Russia. They were conscripted in Russia and sent to serve in Chechnya. They were killed there and now a coffin was sent to Kazakhstan. So, who should pay here?

[Babayan] Grachev said the next issue the ministers agreed on was the restoration of a single air defense system. [passage omitted recalling the agreement to this effect reached at a previous sitting in April this year]

[Grachev] Shall we call it: On a joint defense order for the air defense system? This is about how we should be placing [defense] orders and how we should be paying for them.

[Babayan] Pavel Grachev stressed that from now on, all the necessary equipment for the air defense system will be supplied directly through the Russian Ministry of Defense and not through the state concern Rosvooruzheniye, to reduce spending to the minimum.

[Grachev] Russia is still paying the lion's share of the expenses. I think for the time being they will help us in the form of some barter deals, take it on credit and so on. And when they get richer, they will pay up.

[Babayan] After that, the discussion turned to Russia's position regarding NATO's expansion in Eastern Europe. Here, Pavel Grachev stated again that he is against this process. He thinks the North Atlantic bloc aims to strengthen its union, create a powerful system of international forces and move close up to Russia's borders.

[Grachev] We are not saying, our military doctrine does not say we have an enemy at the moment. There is no enemy. But, all the same, times change and anything can happen.

[Announcer] Pavel Grachev also said that should NATO expand to the east, Russia will be forced to seek military partners. Grachev said these could be found among CIS countries, some East European and Central European countries as well as Middle and Far Eastern countries.

Grachev Addresses CIS Council of Defense Ministers

LD0211144595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1327 GMT 2 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 2 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev said today that so far no common approach has been formed with regard to the creation of a collective security system and the creation of joint groups of the forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States. He was speaking at a one-day meeting of the CIS Council of Defense Ministers, which opened here.

There are 26 issues of military and military-technical cooperation on the agenda. Pavel Grachev proposed that the issue of a committee of the chiefs of staff of the Commonwealth armed forces should be removed from the agenda. In the opinion of the head of the Russian military department, it is too early to push ahead with the creation of a collective body for planning the use of troops and coordinating plans for building CIS armed forces, considering the absence of a common approach to a collective security system for the Commonwealth.

The Russian defense minister believes that at this stage the secretariat of the Council of Defense Ministers and the headquarters for coordinating military cooperation would be able to prepare proposals aimed at implementing accords in this sphere. Pavel Grachev proposed that this issue be included in the plan of the Council's work for 1996. All the participants in the meeting, with the exception of the representatives of Belarus and Kazakhstan, agreed with the Russian minister's views.

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Chernomyrdin Favors Common Customs Space for CIS

LD0311085195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0846 GMT 3 Nov 95

[By Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW November 3 (Itar-Tass) — "Trade turnover between CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) countries continues to decrease. It must become a specific task to establish a common customs space to give a boost to trade within the CIS," Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin in his remarks when opening the CIS Premiers' Council session at President-Hotel here on Friday [3 November].

"Over nine months of the current year, the flows of commodities between Russia and other CIS members gained in scope by six percent in absolute figures. Import into Russia from CIS countries grew by 23 percent. However, the increase was connected with a price rise. As far as physical volumes of trade are concerned, this year's goods turnover will go down by 10-12 points," the Russian Premier said.

"The main task of the Inter-State Economic Committee in 1996 must be to intensify efforts to augment trade between CIS countries," Chernomyrdin pointed out.

An address by the Russo-Kazakhstan-Belarus Commission will be circulated at today's Council meeting. The Commission calls on other CIS members to join the so far three-sided Customs Agreement between these republics, Chernomyrdin said.

Ukraine Opposes Single Air Defense Force Within CIS

LD0211200195 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 2 Nov — A meeting of the CIS Council of Defense Ministers, attended by ministers from Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Ukraine, discussed 27 issues concerning military and political cooperation and a number of agreements to be signed by CIS prime ministers meeting on 3 November in Moscow.

The ministers approved agreements on military and political cooperation between CIS countries and assistance to Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan in upgrading air defense systems.

Ukraine's air defense commander Colonel General Mykhaylo Lopatin, who led the Ukrainian delegation at the talks, told UNIAN that Ukraine had not supported the Russian proposal for a single air defense force under centralized command. Kiev is willing to discuss specific programs on the modernization of air defense missile systems deployed both in Ukraine and Russia, he said.

Zavarzin Appointed Commander CIS Peacekeepers in Tajikistan

LD0211175395 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1630 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At its meeting in Moscow today, the Council of the CIS Defense Ministers appointed Lieutenant General Viktor Zavarzin commander of the CIS collective peacekeeping forces in Tajikistan. By the same document, Lt. Gen. Valentin Bobryshev was released from the post of commander.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 3 Nov

LD0311075195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0609 GMT 3 Nov 95

["Press Review" — ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW November 3 (Itar-Tass) — IZVESTIYA on State endeavours to fight financial frauds.

"The State once again is trying to launch an attack on financial fraudsters. This time the spearhead of the drive is the Federal Commission on Securities and the Stock Market, which has referred draft amendments to the Penal Code to the Russian Government.

In the opinion of Commission Head Dmitriy Vasilyev, the adoption of the amendments would help curb frauds and unscrupulous operations on the domestic stock market.

The draft amendments suggest that offenders be imprisoned for a term of up to five years or — with aggravating circumstances — for terms of up to seven years with the confiscation of property for such crimes as the forging of securities and their illegal emission, a spokesman at the Press Service of the Federal Commission has told the newspaper.

Criminal proceedings will be instituted also against unscrupulous advertisers who promise unbelievebaly high income on their securities.

The current criminal legislation punushes only for the forging of State securities.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA on the discovery of an antidote for Ebola virus.

"Several days ago almost all Russian press media reported sensational news: researchers have found an

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anti-dote for the Ebola virus, the pathogenic agent of the deadly Ebola fever, which has already claimed a toll of human lives in Zaire and has even sneaked to countries which are far away from Africa. The discovery of the anti-dote signifies that the fever has capitulated to the military microbiologists of Russia".

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI on an increase in the volume of housing turned over to occupancy.

Over the nine months of 1995, the volume of housing turned over to occupancy increased by 11 percent as compared with the corresponding period of last year.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI on General Romanov's condition.

General Romanov, who was wounded in Chechnya when commanding the Combined Group of Federal forces there, has had lucid intervals.

RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA on bread price hikes.

"The price of a loaf of white bread in Moscow has risen from 2,225 to 2,400 roubles. Bakery industry experts forecast that the price of a loaf of white bread will be within the range of 5,000 roubles before the year is out".

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'Bosnia Conundrum' Members Meet in Dayton, Ohio

MM0311112195 Moscow TRUD-7 in Russian 3-9 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by Erik Alekseyev: "Talks in Ohio: Bearing Russia in Mind"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On Wednesday [1 November] aircraft carrying Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, and Alija Izetbegovic, chairman of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidiency, landed one after the other on U.S. soil. They were going to be the U.S. Air Force's Wright-Patterson Base in Ohio. This is doubly symbolic. First, the three main figures in the Bosnia conundrum are meeting on U.S. soil, as it were stressing the now crucial role played by the United States in a Bosnia settlement. Second, the meeting at the air base should remind us that, according to the current prevailing opinion, it was NATO strong-arm methods that made it possible to decisively weaken the Bosnian Serbs, enabled the Muslims and, in particular, the Croats, who were able to make maximum use of NATO's bombing support, to decisively reinforce their positions, and brought them all to the negotiating table.

No matter what is said there, the Bosnia problem remains a unique whetstone on which many states are honing their policies. The Bosnia problem is still the focus of a whole series of problems pertaining to relations between states, their geopolitical interests, and the role played by NATO and the United Nations in world affairs.

The cloud over the role that Russia might play in a Bosnia settlement seems to be gradually dispersing. The Russian and U.S. presidents, having announced their mutual understanding on Bosnia, were reluctant to go into detail and turned everything over to the experts. During the meeting of the two countries' defense ministers, as far as one can judge, they coordinated the fundamental principles of the accords. And on Wednesday U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry set out his view of these accords fairly clearly at a press conference in Tokyo. The Russian and U.S. contingents of engineer troops which will join forces in Bosnia in eliminating the devastation caused by the war, will probably amount to 2,000 men on each side. Since Russia is opposed to its forces coming under NATO operational command, these engineer contingents will not form part of the NATO forces implementing the peace agreement in Bosnia.

Finally, several as yet preliminary but fairly definite conclusions can be drawn. Russia is being assigned the honorary role of supplying construction battalions for the restoration of war-torn Bosnia. Admittedly, once again under the command of a U.S. general, but with a Russian deputy who seems to be independent.

NATO under U.S. leadership is taking on the job of providing military-political support for a Bosnian peace agreement once it has been concluded.

The Congress House of Representatives with its Republican majority has fired a wounding dart at U.S. President Clinton. It has adopted a resolution whereby U.S. troops cannot be sent to Bosnia without agreement from Congress. If the United States does not indeed send its troops to Bosnia, there will be plenty of NATO members unhappy that Washington, while endeavoring to preserve its leadership, is allowing others to send their servicemen to an extremely troubled region. But it must nonetheless be borne in mind that the House of Representatives' resolution is not binding but merely a "recommendation." Therefore everything depends on Clinton's real intentions.

Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic described himself as being the most optimistic at the talks now under way at the U.S. Air Base. His actual words were: "I am an optimist and believe in the success of the coming talks."

I would like to subscribe to his belief.

Zotov on Bosnia's Constitutional Structure

LD0211145795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1418 GMT 2 Nov 95

[By Valeriy Sevryukov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW November 2 (ITAR-TASS) — The discussion of elements of Bosnia's constitutional structure will be the most complicated aspect of the talks of the leaders of Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia, Aleksandr Zotov, special envoy of the Russian President for Yugoslavia, told ITAR-TASS on Thursday.

Zotov believes friction within the Muslim-Croatian Federation and the interests of the Serb Republic will exert much influence on defining the formula of a Bosnian confederation. The future agreement on this matter will be based on the principles worked out at the Geneva meeting with the participation of the Contact Group and representatives of the conflicting sides.

The fact that the sides are ready in a degree for talks and preserving armistice will be the decisive aspect in achieving a positive result at the summit that opened in the United States on Wednesday, Zotov said. In these conditions members of the Contact Group represented by Russia, the United States and the European Union see their task in creating conditions for accord between

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participants in the conflict and for working out a clear-cut basis for the implementation of the achieved accord, the presidential envoy said.

Tudjman's Time-Out Viewed

LD0311142295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1408 GMT 3 Nov 95

[By Aleksandr Kondrashov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 3 (ITAR-TASS) — The departure of Croatian President Franjo Tudjman from the Bosnia peace negotiations can hardly be viewed as a dramatic event. Contrary to some media reports, this is not connected either with the state of health of the 74-year-old Croatian leader or problems encountered in the negotiating process.

The matter is that prior to the start of the three-sided meeting, Tudjman requested a time-out to be able to fly from Dayton to Zagreb for several days in view of the completion of the recent parliamentary elections in Croatia. The Tudjman-headed ruling Croatian Democratic Community (CDC) party has again won a parliamentary majority during the elections.

As U.S. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said way back on October 27, the meeting organisers while subjecting the leaders of the three sides to voluntary seclusion at Wright Patterson air base until they reach a peace agreement, made an exception only for the Croatian President who pleaded the need to go to Zagreb for a while in view of the wind-up of the elections and the formation of a new parliament.

The American organisers of the meeting complied with his request on the strength of his assurance that he would return to the negotiations soon and transfer his powers in the interim to Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic, official sources in the Russian Foreign Ministry have told ITAR-TASS.

As far as the consequences of Tudjman's time-out are concerned, they will hardly have a serious impact on the course of negotiations, since the emphasis of discussions in Dayton has shifted to the problems of relationship between the Bosnia Serbs and the Moslems.

Due to the complexity of the situation and the highly contradictory positions of the sides, the talks, for sure, will last not just one day, and even in the event of maximum progress the Croatian President is certain to have time to return and attend the final phase of the conference in Dayton.

E. Slavonian Peace Agreement Hailed

LD0311121595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1130 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 3 (INTERFAX) — Moscow has praised the basic agreement of a peace settlement in Croatia's Serb-populated enclave of East Slavonia negotiated by the Serbian and Croatian Presidents Slobodan Milosevic and Franjo Tudjman at Dayton, Ohio, a high-ranking spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry said Friday in an interview with INTERFAX.

Moscow sees the peace agreement as an important step on the road to lasting peace in the Balkans, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

The peace agreement bears special importance for Russia whose troops are positioned in East Slavonia as part of the U.N. peacekeeping contingent.

Zagreb's decision to settle the East Slavonian problem by force if it had not been settled by political means by November 30, presented a threat to the Russian peacekeepers' lives, the diplomat said. "Luckily, though, the Dayton agreement relegates the Zagreb ultimatum to history."

The diplomat hopes that the fate of the 900-strong Russian peacekeeping battalion will be settled soon. The U.N. mandate for peacekeeping operations in Croatia expires on November 30 and the financially hard-put United Nations can hardly be expected to push for its extension, he said, now that Zagreb's view of the matter in question remains unclear.

If the Dayton agreement moves Croatia to agree to the extended presence of the Russian peacekeepers in East Slavonia, the question of footing the peacekeepers' bills will be sure to arise, the Foreign Ministry source said.

In the source's view, this question, as well as many others, can be discussed by the Russian and U.S. defense ministers in Brussels, later this month.

Chernomyrdin, Ukraine's Marchuk Discuss BSF, Treaty

LD0211195795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1820 GMT 2 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 2 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — Russian head of government Viktor Chernomyrdin held a working meeting this afternoon with Ukrainian Prime Minister Yevheniy Marchuk, who is in Moscow for the session of the Council of CIS Heads of Government.

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A broad range of bilateral issues was discussed, including the division of the Black Sea Fleet [BSF] and completion of preparations for a comprehensive treaty on friendship and cooperation to be signed during the forthcoming visit to Ukraine by President Boris Yeltsin. The meeting also touched on Friday's [3 November] meeting of CIS prime ministers within the framework of the Council of Heads of State [as heard].

Although the Russian and Ukrainian heads of government did not come out to journalists after their meeting, ITAR-TASS has learned from informed sources that the issues mentioned above were discussed in a constructive manner, and that the discussion will continue tomorrow at the session of the Council of CIS Heads of Government.

Moscow Not Testing Nuclear Arms; 'Proud Isolation'

MM0211153495 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Nov 95 p 3

[Report by Vladimir Mikheyev: "U.S. Nuclear Testing Moratorium Hanging by a Thread. What Will Russia Do in Response?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. Department of Energy is guaranteed a headache since, by its own admission, it will be important to prevent an "uncontrolled chain reaction and nuclear explosion" in the next two years. This likelihood arose after Washington's decision to carry out during this period — apart from (or instead of) computer modeling of the processes taking place inside warheads — six explosions of "subcritical" yields using nuclear materials.

Two of these are planned for next year, and four for 1997. The venue will be the 300-meter level in an underground silo at a test range in Nevada. The official explanation is hardly original. The energy officials, serving the military ministry in this instance, cited the need to ensure the "safekeeping and reliability" of U.S. nuclear arsenals.

What does Washington mean by this? The U.S. Administration has observed the moratorium on such tests for more than a year and has assumed a moral obligation to move toward the noble ideal of a full and comprehensive nuclear test ban.

At the same time, the ink is not yet dry on a special directive whereby all three major centers which had to their credit technological developments linked to the military nuclear sphere — Lawrence Livermore, Los Alamos, and the Sandia National Laboratory — are fully preserved at state expense. Experts have already noted that if the task is formulated as verifying the "safekeeping and reliability" of the munitions, then the principle of reasonable sufficiency says that this could have been handled by specialists from the Los Alamos Laboratory alone. It is a different matter if the Americans are planning to improve their existing types of nuclear munition.

In this context we could mention the suspicions in the press that, for instance, the Jacques Chirac government is continuing to test at Mururoa Atoll not only out of a desire to keep under control the physical and chemical processes taking place within warheads during long-term storage, but also because France had been unable to develop [razrabotka] a state-of-the art nuclear warhead for missiles installed on its submarines.

But it remains an abiding fact that, despite the successes in developing [sozdaniye] computer modeling methods, science still knows too little about what goes on at a molecular level in the nuclear munitions hidden away at arms dumps. And the only way to be entirely sure that the warheads in long-term storage will not spring any surprises is to test them in real life.

Thus both China and France are continuing to detonate their munitions. The United States — and, consequently, Britain, which is entirely dependent on the U.S. test range in Nevada — is prepared to follow their example. Russia, which inaugurated the moratorium on such tests, will be left in proud isolation.

Yet it is known that a letter has been sent to the government from Russian nuclear physicists citing arguments in favor of Moscow resuming its own nuclear tests.

Progress in Russian-U.S. CFE Negotiations Praised

LD0211175795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1713 GMT 2 Nov 95

[By Aleksandr Kuzmin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VIENNA, November 2 (ITAR-TASS) — What progress has been made in negotiations between Russia and the U.S. on changes to the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty gives a ground for optimism, the acting head of the Russian delegation to the Joint Consultative Group (JCG), Aleksandr Grushko, told ITAR-TASS.

November 17 ends the 40-months which had been set by the CFE treaty as a period for cutbacks in excessive conventional arms by signatories.

The current debate in the JCG is revolving around the flank limitation's on deployment of Russia's forces.

Russia has questioned the validity of the limitations in October 1993 after the breakup of the Warsaw Pact.

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Russia argued that the limitations did not dent the defence capability of the former Soviet Union with its huge strategic potential, while they are impeding Russia in forging reliable defence.

Grushko said efforts to negotiate the matter since 1993 have been rewarding, with signatories to the CFE showing a readiness to heed Russia's concerns and exempt it from massive cutbacks in tanks and troops in its troubled southern regions.

Army Concludes Joint Exercises With U.S. Troops

LD0311111395 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0235 GMT 3 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Borisenko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 3 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — A grand ceremony at the conclusion of the Russo-U.S. command and staff "Peacekeeper-95" exercises took place at the U.S. Army base at Fort Riley, Kansas on Thursday [2 November]. Some 150 Russian troops from the 27th Guards Motor-Rifle Division, together with men of the U.S. Army 1st Infantry Division, tested elements of peacekeeping operations in conditions as close as possible to reality. In particular, at Fort Riley's training grounds and simulators which are considered to be the best in the U.S. Army, U.S. and Russian peacekeepers carried out exercises in setting up control points in a "buffer zone," accompanying convoys with humanitarian aid, clearing mines, and handling disturbances in the separation zone between conflicting sides. The exercises were watched by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry who last week visited the "Echo" joint training control point, where the joint Russo-U.S. troop contingent has been operating smoothly.

The "Peacekeeper-95" exercises demonstrated in practical terms the possibilities for inter-action between troops of the two countries, noted Colonel Gennadiy Averyanov, commander of the 27th Guards Motor-Rifle Division, at the ceremony to mark the end of the exercises. For his part Major General Randolph House, commander of the 1st Infantry Division, said that it was a great honor for him and his men to take part in the joint exercises with the Russian troops. "As a result of the 'Peacekeeper-95' exercises, the world has become a better and safer place", he added, addressing the troops from the two countries. "I hope that you will go away from here with a feeling of friendship and tell your friends about our sincere desire to live in peace for our children and grandchildren. It is only by working together that we can safeguard peace".

On Friday the Russian officers and men will fly home from McConnell Air Base.

'Defense Capability' Questioned if Su-27 Sold to U.S.

LD0311121895 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0438 GMT 3 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Akhmetsnin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Komsomolsk-na-Amure, 3 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — Following the scandalous sale of a new air defense missile system to the United States last year, it seems that Belarus is again becoming involved in a dubious deal. This time, two best fighters of Russia's air defense forces, the Su-27 aircraft, currently in Baranovichi, are due to cross the ocean.

An ITAR-TASS correspondent has learned that documents concerning the deal have been handed over by aircraft construction workers of Komsomolsk-na-Amure, where Su-27 fighters are produced, to Gennadiy Seleznev, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation State Duma, who has visited the Far East.

The aircraft construction workers also have good evidence that a large batch of fighters equipped to monitor the performance of combat aircraft in aerial combat, is about to go on long-term lease to foreign countries.

Sergey Kilfin, deputy chief designer of the experimental far east design center, a branch of the Sukhoy experimental design center joint-stock company, thinks that the upcoming deal will harm Russia's defense capability and also exports of Russian military aircraft.

Leading experts of the aircraft association in Komsomolsk-na-Amure hope that the documents handed over to the State Duma will be closely and thoroughly studied and that a decision will be taken at state level, appropriate to the current situation.

Paper Examines U.S. Maneuvering in Asia-Pacific Region

MM0211190895 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Nov 95 p 7

[Report by Vsevolod Ovchinnikov: "U.S. Poker in Pacific Region"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Beijing — The next meeting of the leaders of the Asia-Pacific Region states is approaching. These have become traditional — like the "G-7" summits. The venue this time will be Osaka. On the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II this event will give Japan a chance to establish a new image in the eyes of its neighbors and to demonstrate the role it intends to play in Asian affairs.

But this will not be easy. The Osaka meeting will be held against a different political backdrop from the

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similar conferences in Seattle and Bogor. When in 1993 President Clinton proposed upgrading the status of the annual conferences of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC] forum to heads-of-state level, he wanted to regain the initiative in the integration processes.

And now geopolitical considerations once again prevail over economic ones. Concerned at the growing might of China, U.S. strategists see it now as the main potential adversary of the United States. Their aim is to draw the Asians into confrontation with this new "evil empire" and to direct against China the entire system of U.S. military ties which in the Cold War years was targeted against the Soviet Union — in short, they want to replace economic integration with the formation of an anti-China coalition.

It has to be said that various views of the nature of APEC activity were expressed in Seattle. It became clear that the United States would like to turn this consultative forum into an executive mechanism so as to use it to lower the protective barriers erected by less competitive countries.

The fears that APEC could become an instrument of American pressure encouraged the Asians to switch the emphasis to another mechanism — the annual conferences of ASEAN foreign ministers. Their role in international life is growing. First, thanks to the expansion of ASEAN, which has admitted Vietnam and should soon admit Laos, Cambodia, and Myanmar. Second, thanks to the regional ASEAN forums timed to coincide with these meetings. Regional security problems have already been discussed twice at these meetings with the participation of the United States, Japan, China, and Russia.

The situation in the region has been complicated in the run-up to the Osaka meeting owing to the deterioration in relations between Washington and Beijing. It is not a question of specific causes, but of the geopolitical consequences of the collapse of the USSR. In the seventies, Washington needed Beijing as a strategic partner against Moscow. To this end there was good reason to sacrifice official ties with Taiwan. But now this island has once again acquired for the United States the importance of an unsinkable aircraft carrier off the Chinese coast.

Beijing has drawn attention to the calls made in the Western press for the creation of an anti-China coalition. China's growing might, the authors of these articles claim, is becoming a destabilizing factor. It can only be countered by combining economic collaboration with strategic deterrence. And this will only work if the Western and Asian countries start acting together. Beijing commentators are assessing such arguments as a model of hegemonistic logic. It turns out that only the United States is entitled to prosperity — China has to remain poor and backward forever so as not to alarm others.

On the eve of the Osaka meeting attempts are being made to paper over the cracks in the facade of U.S.-Chinese relations. But no cosmetic repairs can alter the essence — China has taken the Soviet Union's place in U.S. strategic concepts. This is forcing the Asian countries to make a difficult choice — whom will they side with in this new polarization of forces? But there is another alternative — a multipolar world structure where the greater the number of active figures there are on the chessboard the better it is for everyone.

As for Russian diplomacy, to my mind it should amend the thrust of its main efforts in the region. Moscow is now pulling out all the stops to gain access to the annual APEC summits, but, since the Asian countries increasingly obviously prefer another structure, it is more important to enhance Russia's role at regional ASEAN forums and to strive without fail for our participation in the unprecedented Asia-Europe meeting planned for Bangkok next year. Russia's unique geographic position gives it that right.

Kurds Will Not Permit Pipeline Unless Peace Restored

LD0211182495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1230 GMT 2 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Andrey Kulikov]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Moscow, 2 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — "Until peace is restored in Kurdistan, the Kurds will not allow the construction of a pipeline through their territory from Turkmenistan." This was stated at a news conference in Moscow today by Yasar Kaya, chairman of the so-called Kurdish Parliament-in-Exile. He stressed that "Kurdistan occupies an important geopolitical position in the region and no-one can take such decisions without its consent."

Yasar Kaya summed up the results of the three-day gathering of Kurds, which had been held in the Russian capital. He claimed that "it was indeed a session of the parliament and not a seminar on the problems of the Kurdish people that had been held in Moscow." According to him its organizers "had held no contacts with the Russian authorities and officials."

Speaking of the results of the gathering Yasar Kaya stated that it "had been of important international significance and had produced a worldwide response."

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He also said that at present "work is underway on preparations for a National Congress of Kurds".

"Not only legal and democratic Kurdish organizations, but participants in the armed struggle too are at present seeking ways for a political and peaceful resolution of the Kurdish problem. We are therefore prepared to enter into a dialogue with Turkey without any preliminary conditions," Yasar Kaya stated. [passage omitted]

See Russia as 'Strategic Ally'

LD0211204795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1635 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 2 (INTERFAX) — The Kurdish people see "their strategic ally" in Russia, leader of Kurdistan's "parliament in exile" declared in Moscow.

Kurdish leaders expressed their gratitude to Russian authorities and President Boris Yeltsin for an opportunity to hold their third session in Moscow.

Representatives of Kurdish communities from 40 countries of the world, including five CIS countries, Russia, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan, attended the session (October 29-November 1). A group of deputies from Russia's Federal Assembly headed by chairman of the State Duma Committee on Geopolitics Viktor Ustinov were among the guests.

Chairman of Kurdistan's parliament in exile Yashar Kaya described Turkey's protest due to the session in Moscow as ungrounded. "It has no moral right to ban 20 million Kurds, finding themselves outside their historic homeland, from discussing their problems," Kaya said.

"Kurdish and Chechen problems cannot be compared," Rustam Broi, member of Kurdistan's parliament in exile representing Russia's Kurdish diaspora, told INTERFAX.

The Chechen people, he said, have their own statehood and are negotiating with Russia to receive wider rights and liberties. Meanwhile, "The Turkish authorities decline to accept the right for existence of the 40-million Kurdish people," Broi said.

Ministry Warns Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan on Caspian 'Wealth'

LD0211184695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1819 GMT 2 Nov 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 2 (INTERFAX) — Moscow does not rule out the adoption of "measures of restraint" against the states which will unilaterally try to tap the Caspian sea wealth.

"In keeping with international practice, a country whose interests and rights are infringed upon, can resort to such measures," a senior Russian Foreign Ministry official declared in an interview with INTERFAX on Thursday.

According to him, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan, two of the five Caspian states, comprising besides these two countries, Russia, Iran, and Turkmenistan, "have embarked on the road of unilateral actions, aimed mainly to unlawfully seize Caspian expanses and, in fact, legalize their occupation."

"In keeping with the Caspian region's current status, the Caspian sea does not belong to any of the coastal states, and the issue on the division of any object of joint use is always extremely painful, injecting new problems in relations between these countries," the source stressed.

He recalled that over the last two months Russia's Deputy Prime Minister Alexey Bolshakov had visited all Caspian countries over the last two months to learn the attitude of each of them toward the Caspian region's status.

These trips have revealed that "only Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan insist on dividing the Caspian sea while Russia, Turkmenistan, and Iran are ready to regard it as an object of joint use on a reliable international and legal footing," the source said, stressing that the Caspian sea status should be defined "without delay." "Although their positions differ, all Caspian countries want the situation to be predictable and stable," the diplomat noted.

This primarily concerns Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan, which have "already committed themselves to Caspian oil fields developments by signing contracts with foreign companies," the diplomat said, warning however that foreign firms will hardly invest in the Caspian project until it is put on a proper legal basis. "They need guarantees", he remarked.

"The main task now is to define for the Caspian region the status that would guarantee the interests of each regional state and the interests of all five regional countries," the diplomat said, stressing that an appropriate document can only be worked out through a compromise. He noted, however, that as the Russian delegation's visits have shown, "neither Kazakhstan nor Azerbaijan are ready" for such a compromise.

He dismissed as totally arbitrary claims made by Baku and Almaty to some Caspian fields.

"Because of its peculiarities, this natural reservoir calls for attention to and responsibility for it. If its resources are tapped without control, all coastal states may face unpredictable consequences," the expert warned, noting

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that "scientists have up till now been unable to explain why in Caspian sea has had its water level up [as received]. As the sea bed is in motion, no one knows how the exploration and development of Caspian deposits can affect environment in the region."

It is precisely for this reason, the diplomat noted, that Russia, Turkmenistan, and Iran suggest that proceeding from the current legal status of the region as an object of common use, rules should be worked out in the interests of all Caspian states so that they would be guaranteed against all possible surprises.

As the expert said, "due to its natural characteristics, the Caspian, which has no natural link with the world ocean, is not a sea."

"The International Maritime Convention has never applied to the Caspian," the diplomat stressed. "Nor has it been regarded as a territorial sea with exclusive economic zones or a continental shelf," he added.

"It would be at least strange while proclaiming the spirit of cooperation in the Caspian to get down to its partition," the Russian foreign ministry official concluded.

Kozyrev, Kazakh Foreign Minister Toqayev Meet in Moscow

LD0211142895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1412 GMT 2 Nov 95

[By Valeriy Sevryukov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 2 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev spoke with satisfaction about his today's talks with his Kazakhstan's counterpart Qasymzhomart Toqayev. "This visit of the head of Kazakhstan's Minister of Foreign Affairs to Moscow confirmed the determination of the leadership of the two countries to go ahead along the path of strengthening good-neighbourliness," Kozyrev said.

According to him, his meeting with Toqayev contained "a circumstantial conversation" on bilateral relations, including the strengthening of the customs union. The two Ministers also discussed aspects of citizenship, humanitarian problems, consular relations and a wide range of international problems, including the situation in Asia and cooperation with European Institutions and the United Nations.

The sober-minded Kozyrev admitted that "the views of the two countries were not identical in every case but their differences stemmed from the complexity of the problems discussed." The Russian Minister stressed at the same time that the two countries were unanimous in their assessment of many international issues, which expanded their foreign political potential while deepening their cooperation within the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the weight of the Commonwealth in international relations.

Toqayev said his dialogue with Kozyrev was a major component of Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev's integrational efforts. "Relations between Russia and Kazakhstan are a very important factor of strengthening the Commonwealth of Independent States," he said.

Minister Toqayev said the Caspian sea problem was a separate subject for discussion and it revealed certain differences in the approaches to the determination of the caspian sea status. "This is a very complex and long-term problem in its character. It needs further specification through consultations and talks on a bilateral basis among the Caspian countries, as well as in a multilateral format," Minister Toqayev said.

Andrey Kozyrev agreed that "there must be no unilateral actions in tackling this problem. It is a problem for all Caspian countries. The character of their relations and the fact that most of them are members of the CIS provides a healthy background for the solution of these questions to mutual satisfaction," he said.

Minister Toqayev's visit to Moscow is the last in a series of meetings held in Moscow during this summer with the participation of the leaders of Foreign Ministries of the Commonwealth member-states.

"Our talks with one of the key states of the CIS make us confident that the Commonwealth would grow stronger and advance towards further integration on both bilateral and multilateral basis," Andrey Kozyrev stressed.

The talks ended in the signing of a plan of events scheduled by the Foreign Ministries of Russia and Kazakhstan for 1996.

Toqayev Denounces Radical Cossack Demands

LD0211215795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1530 GMT 2 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Valeriy Sevryukov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 2 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — As a distinct national and cultural identity in Kazakhstan, Cossacks "are on equal terms with the republic's indigenous population," as are other national minorities. They have "the same opportunities to exercise their civic rights," Kazakhstan Foreign Minister Qasymzhomart Toqayev told ITAR-TASS here today.

"Unfortunately," he said, "the Cossacks' demands run counter to Kazakhstan legislation. For example, they

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want to freely bear arms and are threatening to annex lands settled by Russian-speakers."

Representatives of radical Cossack groups went to Kazakhstan's Embassy in Moscow today, he continued. They "threatened to take hostage Kazakhstan ministers arriving in Moscow" unless the chieftain of the Semirechenskoye Cossack host, Nikolay Gunkin, who is under arrest in Kazakhstan, is released soon. Qasymzhomart Toqayev said such behavior violated international legal standards.

Russia's Ministry for Affairs of Nationalities and Regional Policy and Kazakhstan's state nationalities committee have been instructed to hold talks to defuse these, in the minister's words, "artificial" problems. In addition, Toqayev said, Kazakhstan intends to hold a festival of Cossack culture.

No Substantial Shift in Taleban Position on Airmen

LD0211183295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1513 GMT 2 Nov 95

[By Vyacheslav Anchikov and Oleg Kuzmin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ABU DHABI, November 2 (ITAR-TASS) — ITAR-TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Anchikov reports from Abu Dhabi that two members of the Russian official delegation to talks with the Talibs, a group of doctors and three journalists flew from Sharjah [al-Shariqah], United Arab Emirates, to Kandahar to inspect the state of the Russian airmen held by the Taliban movement units since August.

A counsellor of the Russian Embassy in Islamabad, Zamir Kabulov, and chairman of the Aerostan airline Munir Faizullin, who have repeatedly visited Kandahar over the past few months, took food and water to the members of the crew of the Russian Il-76 transport aircraft held there. It is not ruled out that they would meet the Taliban leaders.

ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Kuzmin reports from Tehran that the seven Russian airmen — Vladimir Sharpatov, Gazinur Khairullin, Aleksandr Zdor, Askhat Byazov, Yuriy Vshivtsev, Sergey Butuzov and Viktor Ryazanov — will have spent three months in captivity by Friday, October 3.

Despite several rounds of talks with the Talibs, in which representatives of the United Nations and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference took part along with the Russian delegation, no substantial positive shifts have been achieved.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Albert Chernyshev told ITAR-TASS in Tehran, however, that "an interesting turn of events" was taking place lately. The diplomat declined to specify what he had in mind, saying it was "too early to discuss in detail," and adding that "a change was about to happen both with regard to the fate of the hostages and in the Talibs' attitude to Russia."

The Taliban movement did not spring up from thin air. The overwhelming majority of its members are Mojahedeens who fought against the Najibollah government forces and Soviet troops for years. Their approach to talks with Russia bears a sad imprint of the past. The largely illiterate Talibs in the Afghan and Pakistani provinces had little access to information about radical changes on the territory of the former Soviet Union. They continued to regard Russia as the Soviet empire, their enemy for years. That attitude found its expression in their treatment of the Russian airmen.

Regular contacts with the Russian delegation members, judging by everything, has eventually changed that attitude and the stereotypical image of "the enemy" begun to be dispelled. In addition, a positive role was played by Moscow's agreement to review the lists of the Afghans whom the Talibs considered missing or held in the republics of the former Soviet Union.

Their demand to return the missing Afghans to their homes, absurd as it appeared from the Russian viewpoint, was of great significance for the Talibs. First of all, their ultimatum to Russia was devised to show the Afghans that the Taliban movement which was seeking to take power in the country, was really concerned about the compatriots. Secondly, as deeply religious people, the Talibs were convinced that a missing person unwittingly raises a lot of problems for his relatives. According to Islamic laws and tradition, the missing person's estate cannot be shared out among his relatives and his wife has no right to re-marry as long as nothing is known about the fate of such a person. A documented statement on whether the missing person is alive or dead is vitally important for the family.

For this reason, if Russia eventually comes up with a statement on the fate of at least several of 6,800 Afghans listed by the Talibs, it will be of great help to the Russian hostages.

The Taliban leaders appear to begin to realise that their intention to come to power in the country is in no way compatible with the enmity with Russia. Afghanistan's geographical position inevitably demands that any Afghan government maintain at least normal if not friendly relations with Moscow, Chernyshev said.

The Russian diplomat also said that within the framework of diplomatic efforts aimed at freeing the airmen, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin had sent

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messages to the leaders of the United States and Pakistan and the king of Saudi Arabia, all of which countries maintain good relations with Russia and are believed to back the Taliban movement. It cannot be ruled out therefore that they might wish to make a friendly gesture with regard to Moscow and talks the Talibs into setting the Russian airmen free.

These moves must have provided the ground for the Russian diplomat's optimistic outlook.

Hostage Suffering From Hepatitis

LD0211205595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1641 GMT 2 Nov 95

[By Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 2 (ITAR-TASS) — The crew of the Russian plane hijacked by the "Taleban" movement on August 3 was examined by a group of Russian doctors on Wednesday. The doctors established that the captain of the Russian plane had contracted hepatitis "A", a contagious disease which might be developed by other members of the crew or anyone else who contacts them.

A spokesman for the Russian Ministry for emergency situations told ITAR-TASS by telephone today that the Russian doctors with the assistance of UN officials had persuaded Taliban representatives to allow the hostages to get in touch with their families through the satellite telephone network. The doctors insisted that the hostages should be given a chance to speak to their relatives because of a poor psychological condition of the captivated crew who had experienced a strong emotional stress.

The doctors belonging to the Catastrophe Medical Service Center (Zaschita) are expected to return from Qandahar to Russia later in the day.

Council of Europe Reviews Russia's Case

MM0211134195 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Nov 95 p 7

[Report by Aleksandr Krasulin: "Our Entry into Europe Not Barred But... The Parliamentary Assembly Commission Sought Answers in Moscow to the Question of Whether To Recommend Russia's Admission to the Council of Europe"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the President Hotel's Round Room 23-24 October, members of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly commission for relations with European countries which are not members of the Council of Europe under the chairmanship of Jean Setlinger put searching questions to representatives of the leadership of the Russian Federation, the Federal Assembly, public and religious organizations, associations of ethnic minorities, parties, and electoral blocs in an attempt to find out how stable the development of the democratic processes is in our country. The commission was implementing the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly's decision in September to reopen the procedure for Russia's admission to the Council of Europe.

All the Russian representatives confirmed their desire to see Russia as a member of the Council of Europe. The leaders of the parties and parliamentary factions told the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly commission's members that this is not an opportunistic move, but a commitment to the formation of a rule-of-law state and full participation in the work of all the European institutions, and the new State Duma will adhere to that commitment. In their opinion, if this process is delayed it will slow down the process of democratic transformations and create the threat of a return to an authoritarian state. In particular, Sergey Filatov, leader of the Russian Federation Presidential Staff, stated: "We approach the Council of Europe with an open mind because we want to learn from its experience and make fewer mistakes. But when the Russian Federation is placed at a disadvantage compared with other countries and subjected to extra conditions, for example, on the Dniester region or the presidential elections, this creates extra tension. We are waiting for Council of Europe membership so that we can move on to the subsequent course of actions."

On day two there was a meeting with the leaders of the main mass media. The members of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly commission were mainly interested in three questions. Are information and editorial activities implemented freely in the Russian Federation? Is there censorship? And are the mass media going to provide objective coverage of the election campaign and the elections themselves? In their replies the leaders of the mass media noted that there is freedom to gather and disseminate information in the country, there is no censorship, and they all intend to take part in covering the elections. As for constraints, these are connected with the economic position of the mass media. Many newspapers, magazines, and even the television and radio, including those of the state, are suffering from an acute shortage of resources, and this creates certain difficulties.

Summing up the results of the two days' work, Jean Setlinger, chairman of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly commission, noted that he was highly pleased by the fact that all the representatives of Russia's government structures, parliament, the public, and the mass media are unanimous in acknowledging the considerable progress made in democratization in Rus-

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sia in the last five years. The Russian Federation's membership of the Council of Europe can only play a positive role by helping to accelerate that development. He also stressed that no new demands will be placed on Russia, nor will double standards be applied. "We would like to admit you to the Council of Europe because it would be in the interests of the Russian Federation and of Europe."

At this stage the commission members did not examine any of the shortcomings which could have an adverse impact on the decision on the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly's recommendation to the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers on Russia's admission.

At the same time, David Atkinson, one of the Council of Europe's three rapporteurs on Russia who attended the session, stated that he has still not come to a final decision, but hopes to do so with his colleagues' help in two-three weeks' time, when the question of the progress made by Russia is going to be considered.

Replying to your ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA correspondent's question as to whether the Chechen problem will be an obstacle to Russia's admission to the Council of Europe again, he stated: "I am convinced that the Russian Government is committed to the peaceful solution of the Chechen crisis. This includes the holding of parliamentary elections there and a referendum on Chechnya's future. We have been monitoring events in that region and note with regret that terrorist activity is continuing there. We are considering everything and are monitoring Russia's reaction and its present and future conduct in Chechnya. This will undoubtedly influence our final decision."

And the outcome?

"I believe that the matter will end or at least should end with a preliminary recommendation to admit us," Vladimir Lukin, head of the Russian delegation to the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, said with cautious optimism. "The European Union is working in this direction now. It recently adopted a positive resolution as far as we are concerned, and Kohl and Chirac have spoken out positively on this matter. There is a feeling that the West is trying to resolve this problem. But as for the question why, that is a different matter. The feeling is that while trying to avoid concessions on the main issues, such as the expansion of NATO, the West is trying to sweeten the pill and admit us to a number of international organizations so as to show that it is not simply against Russia."

Israel Urges Moscow To 'Convince' Syria, Iran To Meet

MK0211142795 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian
No. 75, 29 Oct-5 Nov 95 (Signed to press 31 Oct 95) p 11

[Interview with Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan by Dmitriy Sabov and Leonid Gankin; in Moscow, date not given; under the "Visit" rubric: "Eli Dayan: The Ball Is in Russia's Court"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan, who has been visiting Russia, said in an interview for MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI that Russia can play a key role in the settlement process in the Near East.

[Sabov, Gankin] What are the objectives of your visit?

[Dayan] We discussed the progress of the peace process in the Near East. To be frank, we would like Russia to convince President al-Asad to agree to an Israeli-Syrian summit. We are ready to let Damascus decide on its own whether it should be an official or a discreet meeting. We would also like Russia to convince Syria and Iran to renounce attempts to destabilize the situation in southern Lebanon and to back terrorists from Hizballah.

[Sabov, Gankin] How did the Russian side react to your requests?

[Dayan] They promised to help us. We, for our part, emphasized that Israel has complete confidence in Russia as a cochairman of the peace process. While giving credit to the Americans, who have done a lot toward a settlement in the Near East, we understand that their capabilities are not limitless. Now the ball is in Russia's court, and, drawing on its traditional connections in the Arab world, it can achieve a real breakthrough in the peace process.

[Sabov, Gankin] During his recent visit to Moscow Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin received extra information on the sale of Russian reactors to Iran. Did this convince Israel of the peaceful nature of the deal?

[Dayan] We are absolutely certain that Russia does not seek to damage Israeli security. At the same time, the delivery of Russian reactors to Iran and, particularly, the training of personnel for the Iranian nuclear program by your specialists pose a potential threat: Tehran could use this to create its own nuclear weapons. For this reason, having no particular confidence in monitoring by the IAEA, the Israeli leadership asks Russia, if the deal does go through, to keep a close track of how the Russian equipment is used. [passage omitted]

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Talks on Georgian-Abkhaz Settlement Resume in Moscow

MM0211152495 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by Igor Lenskiy: "Caucasian Adversaries Reconcile Their Differences in Moscow"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Georgian-Abkhaz talks aimed at reaching a political settlement of the conflict resumed in Moscow today after a two-month break. Both sides have sent a higher-ranking person to head their delegation and have submitted softer proposals than those discussed before. An interim document is expected to be signed as a result.

A question mark hung over the meeting until yesterday. On the eve of the talks the head of Georgia issued new threats to use force. Abkhazia's maritime border was blockaded in mid-October on the initiative of A. Zemtsov, commander of border troops in the North Caucasus Military District. In this situation any discussions would not only have been pointless — they would also have been humiliating for the Abkhazians. The Russian authorities also realized this. At the very last moment the port of Sukhumi was reopened to foreign ships. Russian cutters are once again moving between Sukhumi and Trabzon, which supplies blockaded Abkhazia with the lion's share of its fuel and food.

A group of specialists from the Foreign Ministry, the Railways Ministry, and the Federal Border Service arrived in Abkhazia on the eve of the talks. Russia has pledged to finance restoration work on the Transcaucasus Railway to the tune of 100 billion rubles. The Abkhazian side will receive payment for the transit of freight bound for Georgia and Armenia. With the railway starting to function once more, Abkhazia will gain some 1,300 jobs. The republic is expecting to export 15,000 tonnes of citrus fruits in the coming season, which will allow it to increase the state budget and pay wages and pensions.

Thus peaceful cooperation and creative work are possible. All the sides have to do is stop saber-rattling and artificially driving the negotiating process into the Procrustean bed of "territorial integrity." Whether this is to be or not will ultimately be decided by the people themselves. Just as it was in Quebec, so it will be in Abkhazia.

Soskovets, Belarusian Premier Discuss Economic Relations

LD0211215695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1842 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 2 (INTERFAX) — Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets held talks with a Belarusian government delegation led by Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir in Moscow Thursday evening. The delegation came to Moscow for the Friday session of the Council of CIS Prime Ministers.

The two sides focused on cooperation in power engineering, transportation and customs procedures, a spokesman for Soskovets told INTERFAX.

The Belarusian side expressed readiness to pay part of the debts for Russian natural gas deliveries by supplying equipment to the Russian army. Mutual settlements between the two countries could be made in Russian treasury bills.

Belarus is also ready to corporatize oil refineries together with Russian business circles. Its building companies would be interested in involvement in the construction of a gas pipeline from Siberia to Western Europe across their country.

Soskovets and Chyhir favored the formation of a corporation to build and maintain a new highway from Moscow to Minsk and Brest.

Officials from the two countries spoke of their readiness to begin the second stage of the customs union which should give equal opportunities to manufacturers in Russia and Belarus. They also spoke for the formation of mixed companies in the energy industry, road construction and the defense industry.

London Conference To Discuss Canada-Yakutsk Railroad

MM0211155195 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Oct 95 p 10

[Unattributed report: "To America by Train"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A project for the construction of a 7,000-km transcontinental railroad from the southwest border of Canada through Alaska to Yakutsk via a tunnel under the Bering Strait will be discussed at a special conference to be held in London next February.

The project is based on the old idea, put forward in 1905 by a Russian-French-U.S. consortium, of constructing a railroad tunnel under the Bering Strait.

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The U.S. engineer George Kumal [name as transliterated] has already prepared the detailed design fore the railroad. Specialists calculate that the construction of the railroad from Vancouver to Yakutsk will cost $40 billion.

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Political Issues

Yeltsin, Premier Discuss Elections, Appointments

LD0311123295 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1205 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 3 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin had a working meeting at the Central Clinical Hospital today. The prime minister's spokesman Viktor Konnov said the meeting lasted 30 minutes.

The presidential press service told ITAR-TASS today that during the meeting opinions were exchanged on the progress of the election campaign in Russia. In connection with this, the prime minister and the president stressed that "all participants in the election campaign should observe the generally acceptable ethical norms."

The press service reported that Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin discussed "a package of draft documents on staff appointments."

Viktor Chernomyrdin also briefed Boris Yeltsin on the meetings he has been holding with the leaders of parties and blocs taking part in the elections.

The prime minister "briefed the head of state on the opening of the sitting of the CIS Prime Ministers' Council held in Moscow today and passed the get well wishes to the president on behalf of its participants," the president's press service reports.

Grachev 'Directly Subordinated' to Yeltsin, Premier

LD0311121695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1155 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 3 (INTERFAX) — Russian Defense Minister, General of the Army Pavel Grachev is directly subordinated to President Boris Yeltsin, currently at the Central Clinic for treatment, and to Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin in the area of military-economic issues. A statement to the effect was made by Grachev to correspondents Friday [3 November] during the Moscow meeting of Commonwealth prime ministers.

"I am directly subordinated to the President and report to him in ciphered cables and over the telephone. As for military-economic issues, I am subordinated to the Prime Minister (Viktor Chernomyrdin — IF), as it is envisaged by the Manual," said the Minister.

In the words of Grachev, his latest conversation with Boris Yeltsin was over the telephone upon Grachev's return from Greece.

Speaking of his possible meeting with the President, Grachev said "it will be held as soon as the President invites me." The Minister can visit Boris Yeltsin before his trip to Brussels on November 8-9 for negotiations at the NATO headquarters, and listen to the President's parting words.

Asked about Russian participation in peace-keeping operations in Bosnia together with NATO, the Minister said they have not decided how the Russian troops can act in the common system with NATO without being subordinated to the alliance.

"We will have to reach an agreement on troops control, but we do not plan to be subordinated to NATO," stressed the minister.

In the words of Grachev, they will have to find ways "to fulfill a common task without being influenced or accountable to NATO."

"We are not planning to report to NATO, we are strong as we are," said Grachev.

Daily: Yeltsin Reminds Grachev, Kozyrev 'Who's Boss'

MM0111095295 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Oct 95 p 3

[Article by Albert Plutnik: "Two Outraged Ministers Seen Against the Backdrop of the Election"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Two ministers directly appointed by the president have, thanks to Boris Yeltsin's actions, become the center of heightened and even somewhat exaggerated public attention.

After agonizing doubts and principled objections, Defense Minister Pavel Grachev did, after all, as you will be aware, appear at the well-known legal proceedings under way as part of his own lawsuit and, what is more, he apologized, notwithstanding his high official position, for the pretty free-and-easy language he had presumed to use about the court. Our young democracy must clearly put the minister's public apology down to its credit. Moreover, he did not even have to be subpoenaed, he came under his own steam, as it were, arriving in an official Mercedes. Admittedly, he appeared as a general carrying out the recommendation of his supreme commander, which is tantamount to an order, rather than as an ordinary citizen or out of respect for the law.

By obliging his minister to obey the law the president made clear in the most unambiguous way that even his close associates must respect the norms of the law, which are theoretically intended for universal execution, and that they are, from a certain standpoint, perfectly

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ordinary citizens with all the rights and obligations that go with that.

The same day saw an even more unprecedented act by Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, speaking on the Podrobnosti television program. He attempted to express a sense of his own self-respect, a truly unprecedented attempt in the practice of communication between top officials from the ruling presidential team and their captain. An attempt, it has to be said, which was very timid, guarded, measured out, and in places ingratiating, and yet....

Everyone remembers the recent scathing terms used by the president to describe Minister Kozyrev. And now, breaking the age-old party-cum-soviet tradition, a tradition which had remained inviolable even in our time whereby criticism from those at the top, whatever form it took, was regarded as justified and taken as a guide to immediate action and repentance, Andrey Kozyrev ventures to say something about the fact that he has been talked to in a tone of voice which he regards as not altogether acceptable. And this was done to a man who had served the president so long and loyally....

Certainly, no one has any doubts that the tone was indeed, let us put it this way, not altogether proper, was inappropriate, and was, to say the least, altogether inopportune. To start pulling your foreign minister to bits and denigrating him in front of the whole world on the eve of highly crucial talks, just before he flies across the Atlantic, where he will represent the interests of Russia the next day and be the virtual embodiment of the country.... But this time we were witnesses to something unprecedented — the reaction of a minister to the nature of criticism from the president. Let us not be overcritical of the apologetic and even humble tone of Andrey Kozyrev's objections. He had resolved, after all, to remind the whole of Russia and the whole world, before whom he had been publicly castigated, that he was not the kind of person to pretend that he personally had not noticed what everyone else had. A little further, it seems, and the whole question of the defense of the honor and dignity of a minister insulted by the president would have been at stake.

It is well known, however, that this is an "historically" developed phenomenon: People from the immediate entourage of the top leaders are not, from this standpoint, distinguished by a special sense of principle or overscrupulousness. It is as if they acknowledge in advance when they take up office that all present and future judgments of them by those at the top have far greater correspondence to the truth than their own judgments of themselves. Keeping your head down, suffering everything in silence, readily knuckling under if your boss deems it necessary for you to do so.... There are unwritten laws in this milieu. Is this not because so many of those who have gone through the crucible of leadership work acquire as a result of this a degree of weakness in the face of their superior which essentially makes them blind agents of his will.

So let us rejoice that events are finally beginning to happen thanks to which we are no longer as surprised as we would have been two to three years ago that in Italy one of its most prominent politicians, the country's long-time premier, should have landed in the dock or that the Belgian parliament should have written off the NATO secretary general's political career. The whole point is that both individuals suspected of dishonest dealing have simply been obliged to answer for their actions as ordinary citizens. Our ministers, in situations very distinct from each other, are only ordinary citizens to some extent for the time being, citizens, that is, who are not protected by privilege from responsibility as regards the constitutional norms or bound by their posts to excise from themselves normal notions of personal honor and dignity, although it is, of course, highly significant that, say, the simple execution of the law by the defense minister is regarded in an era of democratic transformations as virtually an extraordinary rather than routine event.

The president's recommendation to Grachev and his calculatedly savage criticism of Andrey Kozyrev undoubtedly form elements of the presidential election campaign. This is a reminder of who's boss in the country and that no one else will be allowed to call the shots here. But these elements, which sum up the ethics of the relationship between the president and the members of his immediate entourage, are particularly noteworthy if you bear in mind the inclination of certain top officials to act on impulse and then, as it were, forget or, more accurately, attach no importance to what has been said or done. But society and public opinion do have a memory, a very, it must be said, strong and tenacious memory. It retains everything for a long time — who said what, how it was said, and what happened next.

Moscow Explosion Smashes Windows, Wounds Guard

LD0311125795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1220 GMT 3 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Larissa Kislinskaya]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 3 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — An unidentified explosive device went off on Thursday [2 November] at the entrance to the building of the Education Ministry's directorate of the Northeast District of Moscow situated at 3 Yablochkov street.

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As ITAR-TASS has learned at the Moscow Main Directorate of the Interior, a team of investigators who left for the scene of the incident has found out that the device, equivalent to 70 grams of TNT, was put in a bag hanging on a bicycle. This means of transport which was quite unusual for yesterday's spell of bad weather, was left unattended at the entrance to the building. As a result of the explosion, 45 windows were smashed, and a 77-year-old security guard was wounded by fragments of broken glass. He has been taken to hospital. Criminal proceedings have been instituted.

Premier Backs Decree To Compensate Deceived Depositors

LD0211202695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1507 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 2 (INTERFAX) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin approved a government-prepared presidential decree on compensation for depositors deceived by financial companies, Russia's Deputy Finance Minister Konstantin Buravlev told INTERFAX Thursday.

Chernomyrdin expressed satisfaction with the discussion of this document and granted three days for it to be signed by all interested departments before sending it to presidential structures, Buravlev said.

"In contrast to radical democrat-monetarists Chernomyrdin believes that the state must find an opportunity and help the depositors deceived by financial swindlers," Buravlev said.

The matter concerns about 883 financial pyramid schemes which attracted the public's money without the licence of the CBR [Central Bank of Russia], about 30 million citizens, who participated in these operations, and a sum of money worth 2 trillion rubles which is needed to cover the financial damage, according to information of the Federal Commission on Securities. Expenditures for this article, the draft decree foresees the creation of a Public-State Compensation Fund to offset the damage to the deceived depositors, Buravlev said. The fund will describe property and real estate, arrest assets from companies that have swindled depositors and then control and distribute these funds, he explained.

The first depositors, the deceived depositors of Russkiy Dom Selenga and Russkaya Nedvizhimost who have already addressed the Fund, are likely to receive compensation this year.

Premier Orders Finance Ministry To Fund Conference

MM0311115495 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 3 Nov 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Spending: Ministry for Nationalities Affairs and Regional Policy Instructed To Teach Self-Government"]

[FBIS Translated Text] By directive of Viktor Chernomyrdin the Russian Ministry of Finance has been instructed to allocate the Ministry for Nationalities Affairs and Regional Policy 79.7 million rubles from the Russian Federation Government standby fund during the fourth quarter of the year to finance expenditure linked with the preparation and holding of the all-Russia conference with leaders of local self-government bodies. The conference starts work in Moscow tomorrow.

Decree on Increasing Servicemen's Pay Signed

MM0211195395 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by Ivan Ivanyuk: "Servicemen's Pay Increased as of 1 September"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian Federation Government Decree No. 1052 — under which pay rates and scales for military (special) ranks of servicemen, officers and men of internal affairs and Tax Police organs, and staff in the Russian Federation customs system are to be increased by 54 percent — was signed 30 October 1995. As is well known, pay had not been increased since 1 April this year.

The Russian Federation Finance Ministry has been instructed to determine the size of and sources for funding expenditure relating to the implementation of the government decree.

Army General Mikhail Kolesnikov, Russian Federation first deputy defense minister, has sent a telegram to the troops containing specific demands for the implementation of the decree. It also points to the need to ensure the recalculation by military commissariats as of 1 September 1995 of pensions payable to Defense Ministry pensioners on the basis of the 54-percent pay rise, taking account of the current cost of a month's foodstuffs, the minimum wage, and the minimum old-age pension.

Conference Discusses National Security Concerns

MM0111113095 Moscow PRAVDA ROSSII in Russian 26 Oct 95 p 3

[Article by Lieutenant General Ivan Lyutov, member of "Spiritual Heritage" Central Council, doctor of military sciences, and professor; and Aleksey Podberezkin,

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chairman of "Spiritual Heritage" Central Council and doctor of historical sciences: "Not To Catch Up but To Overtake" — first two paragraphs are PRAVDA ROSSII introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] A scientific and practical conference entitled "Strong Special Services, a Strong State, a Strong Russia" was recently held in Moscow on the initiative of the "Spiritual Heritage" All-Russia State-Patriotic Association.

Senior Federal Security Service [FSB] and MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] officials, State Duma and Federation Council deputies, and veterans of Russian special services, Border Troops, and Interior Troops took part in it. The speakers thoroughly analyzed problems of ensuring the security of the individual, society, and the state and the Russian special services' role and place in this. Today we draw readers' attention to material from participants in the scientific and practical conference.

The present-day world in which we live is a world of strong partnership and strong competition within the framework of rigid and firmly established state structures throughout the entire planet.

"Special services" is customarily held to mean state organs which have been created and which operate in the interests of protecting national interests and security both inside the country and in the international arena. They have always been the sharpest instrument in the struggle, providing the political leadership with reliable and objective information about the real state of affairs in a particular sphere of sociopolitical and economic life which require a decision at the highest level.

There are several main types of intelligence service. Practically all states have a military-political and a strategic military intelligence service.

Many of the world's states have domestic security services (counterintelligence, political investigation, economic security departments, and bodyguards for the country's leadership). In the Russian Federation this heading includes the FSB, Main Bodyguard Directorate, Russian President's Security Service, and Tax Investigation Service, which use operational agent methods in their operations in accordance with legislation. In addition, the world's leading states have set up autonomous electronic security and special communications services and services to obtain information by technical methods. They require a high level of scientific and technical and technological development and the expenditure of considerable resources. The Federal Government Communications and Information Agency Under the Russian Federation President [FAPSI] can be considered to be the biggest of them.

The Federal Border Service-Border Troops High Command, which uses technical, operational agent, and purely military methods to protect the state border, has a special position in Russia.

Currently Russia's counterintelligence organs are a strictly centralized department directly subordinate to the Russian president.

This department's central organs head a unified system of Russian counterintelligence organs which function independently of Russian Federation components' organs of power.

The counterintelligence organs' direct subordination to the Russian Federation president is a separate and extremely "sensitive" question.

The main and most dangerous threats to the Russian Federation's society and state are the spread of corruption, the expanding scale of organized crime, the proliferation of weapons, the increase in terrorism, and the intensification of foreign special services' operations.

[begin box] Last year 3 million crimes were recorded in Russia. According to some criminologists' assessments between 10 and 12 million crimes are being committed in the country.

Every year over 5,000 citizens die from violence or die an unnatural death. [end box]

Corruption in present-day Russia is a larger-scale and all-pervading category affecting the levels and strata of authority.

A report on the fight against corruption at a State Duma session in spring 1994 says: "Corruption has affected state structures, the credit and finance system, and business like rust. In 1993 over 52,000 corruption-related crimes were detected."

This is taking place against a background where endless anticorruption programs are being drawn up. But the absence of punishment of high-ranking officials and their criminal associates is undermining all programs and laws. The process of the criminalization of the economy is continuing. In our country total control over normal trade has been established. As a result we are paying through the nose for bread and 20-30 percent more for our consumer baskets. Exotic fruits are cheaper in the markets than tomatoes and cucumbers — tribute is being paid to the mafia. That is, the population is maintaining two states with its money: the legitimate and the criminal — both exist in parallel. To be exact, the legal state is increasingly coming under the power of the criminal state. The wider corruption spreads, the more sophisticated the links between officials and

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criminal structures become. The pact between various categories of officials is spreading everywhere, as a result of which investment from the state budget is going to those commercial structures which are under mafia control.

The link between leaders of criminal groupings and officials of state enterprises and organizations and of organs of power and administration have led to a situation whereby in many regions organized criminal groups have taken effective and partly legal control of the creation and development of a network of commercial enterprises in various forms of ownership.

Organized crime and corruption have started to monopolize all spheres of illegal activity yielding material profit.

[begin box] Criminal groupings have tens of thousands of armed gunmen capable of solving not only local, private problems but also questions in big-time politics. [end box]

Organized crime in our country is fully formed, has penetrated all representative, executive, and law enforcement power structures, has accumulated sufficient capital, has organized thousands of people and armed them, has a solid base in the form of commercial structures of various organizational and legal forms, and can rapidly adapt for its criminal ends to new changes in the socioeconomic sphere of life.

The sudden appearance of such an alarming factor in our life as the proliferation of weapons is directly linked to the complication of the political and economic situation in the country.

The wave of violence stirred up by the criminal world has increased demand for weapons, which could not fail to be reflected in the expansion of the so-called "weapons market," which is being boosted not only from domestic sources but also by receipts from abroad.

Bearing in mind everything set out above, it can be assumed with a fairly high degree of probability that in the near future the increase in the presence of firearms in our country will not only not slow down but will on the contrary mushroom at an ever-accelerating rate, especially as all the possibilities for this are present.

The upsurge in terrorist acts in the seventies dispelled the illusory notions of developed countries' predetermined immunity to terrorism — notions which were widespread in the conditions of the "consumer society."

In the very recent past Russian society had strong immunity to terrorism, but it has now been breached. Thus, in terms of the number of violent acts involving the use of firearms and various kinds of explosive or incendiary devices or the threat of their use, the taking of hostages, means of transport, and weapons, attempted nuclear blackmail, and threats to use chemical and biological weapons components we have a real chance of exceeding the level of such terrorist acts currently recorded in the world.

[begin box] In 1994 21 premeditated murders were committed for every 100,000 people, which is 25 percent more than in 1993. [end box]

Society is witnessing the active progress of the process of property stratification, ideological demarcation, and the organized registration of political movements, parties, and various kinds of fronts and organizations which are espousing various political views and waging a power struggle. As a result the population is becoming politically polarized.

[begin box] U.S. and NATO countries' special organs are stepping up their penetration of Russia. On Latvian, Lithuanian, and Estonian territory U.S. and German intelligence services are actively creating their own branches whose interest is primarily focused on our country. [end box]

The weakening of state control and secrecy restrictions that became possible following the USSR's disintegration has led to a situation whereby, according to certain data, around 70,000 highly skilled Russian specialists have now gone to work in the United States via various channels, of whom 8,000-9,000 could with every justification be classified as the scientific elite.

Here it was planned to spend up to $100,000 to acquire Russian technologies and to make a profit of at least $1 billion.

Foreign intelligence services' desire to take advantage of the situation of a weakened counterintelligence regime, to "fish in troubled waters," and to set up agent positions with an eye to the future is patently obvious.

Foreign special services' leaders themselves make no secret of this. In their speeches, including the recent Senate Intelligence Committee hearings, CIA Director Versi [as published], for example, stressed the priority of the Russian area in CIA operations.

Former socialist countries' special services currently pose a serious threat to the Russian Federation. Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Romania are actively cooperating with NATO countries' special services, which are rendering assistance in strengthening their technical base and reorganizing their counterintelligence and intelligence organs.

The relatively high level of training of these states' special services personnel and the knowledge of the Russian counterintelligence service's forms and methods

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of operation are enabling them to count on achieving good results when carrying out intelligence operations on Russian Federation territory.

East European countries' special services also have wide-ranging possibilities in the sphere of carrying out technical intelligence against Russia. This is explained by their immediate proximity to Russia and the presence on their territory of unique equipment which was once used by the Soviet special services in their operations against the West. Special organs created in CIS countries do not escape attention either. Western partners are trying to involve them in carrying out intelligence operations against the Russian Federation. All these factors must be kept firmly in mind by our special services.

In the last decade the public debate about the security system in Russia has highlighted many flaws in this system which objectively existed and which were tragically reflected in the fates of a considerable number of people.

Of special importance is the elaboration of new conceptual approaches to understanding the essence and substance of the security system and of a doctrine to safeguard it, which could be regarded as the basis for the elaboration of security strategy and policy.

By determining our country's national interests and the threat to them, we will obtain the scientific foundation of Russia's security doctrine which is to be elaborated and which must be approved at the highest political level, and it is on this basis that real agreement can be achieved between various public forces.

Ensuring internal political stability and resolutely countering the most important destabilizing factors — organized crime and corruption, terrorism and political extremism, ecological and technological arbitrary action — could be viewed as the most important strategic tasks for all state structures in ensuring the country's security.

The security system must in our opinion function as a unified system of state organs, closely cooperating with various public structures — information analysis, scientific, sociological, propaganda, sociopolitical, and other structures.

The special services' operations must be organized in strict accordance with the Russian Federation Constitution and Russian Federation legislation on the principles of legality and respect for human rights and freedoms. It is also important that the special services' operations do not lag behind events but predict the way that they are going to develop. [Lyutov, Podberezkin end]

On 18 October the State Duma considered the state of the Russian Federation's national security and decreed that:

1. The state of the Russian Federation's national security is declared unsatisfactory.

2. The Russian Federation president is instructed to submit a draft Russian national security doctrine to the Russian Federation Federal Assembly before 31 December 1995.

3. The State Duma of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly is to consider and approve the budget for 1996 bearing in mind the state of Russia's national security.

4. The Russian Federation president is requested to combine the efforts of organs of state power and scientific circles in order to elaborate Russia's national security doctrine as quickly as possible.

Business Roundtable Leader Kiselev Interviewed

LD0211214895

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow NTV in Russian at 1635 GMT on 1 November, on its "Hero of the Day" program, carries a 25-minute report on Oleg Kiselev, newly-elected co-chairman of the Roundtable of Russian Business, head of Mosexpo joint stock company, chairman of the directors of Impexbank, first deputy of the Yevrozoloto financial group, and a member of the Presidential Council.

The second Congress of Russian Entrepreneurs, which opened on 1 November, is drafting a Russian Business Charter designed to regulate business ethics and legality and will be signed and adhered to on a voluntary basis. The Roundtable was set up in October 1993, and now has about 150 members, including large enterprises such as Gazprom.

Asked for his views on the current election campaign, Kiselev says he thinks the present law on elections is deeply flawed, and that what he fears most is that the parliament elected might open the way to criminality, and that the people's right to choose might be flouted.

Asked to what extent his views are shared by people in the presidential structure, Kiselev says: "I am indeed a member of the Presidential Council, but I do not check out my political views and actions with the presidential team. The Presidential Council is set up on the principle of independent people who can, it seems to me, tell the president the truth — that is, who have the inner strength to speak the truth." Anyone can speak their mind at meetings of the Presidential Council, though

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Kiselev admits that the presence of the head of state can be daunting.

In 1993, about 300 major businessmen were killed. The number of contract killings rose 10 percent in 1994 over 1993. In 1994, there were 274 cases of hostage-taking and kidnapping in Moscow's business world alone. In the first six months of 1995, 46 major bank officials have been killed, and only one of the cases has been solved. Asked about these figures, Kiselev says the reason lays with the growth of violence in general in the country and with moral decay. He has bodyguards, Kiselev says, but he still fears for his life.

Assembly Voices Opposition to Land Sales

MM0111155595 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 31 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Yuriy Nikolayev: "All-Russia Rural Assembly. If We Preserve the Land, We Will Save Russia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] These words were inscribed on the backdrop in the Parliamentary Center conference hall where 2,000 delegates to the Second All-Russia Rural Assembly from all over the country and at least 1,000 guests were gathered. The succinct motto was the main theme of the representative peasant forum. Agrarian Party of Russia [APR] Chairman M. Lapshin delivered the keynote speech, particularly stressing that the ruling plutocracy is stopping at nothing to legalize the rapacious repartition of nationwide property and insistently stealing up on the main national asset — land. They want to make it the subject of shameful haggling. To that end there are constant attempts to split the peasant movement and cause dissension in its ranks.

There was no need to look far for evidence. An "alternative" congress held by the Union of Landowners, mollycoddled and sustained by the ruling elite, met at the same time as the All-Russia Rural Assembly in Moscow City Hall. Different speeches were heard there. But what questions arose. Straight after the keynote speech an assembly delegate from Samara Oblast got up and asked for clarification on "how legitimate the Union of Landowners Congress is and whether it is entitled to make statements on behalf of the Russian peasantry."

"No one in Samara Oblast elected any delegates to this congress," the Samara peasant said. "What about other areas?"

M.I. Lapshin replied that he himself had attended rural assemblies at various levels in 20 regions and had not heard of any agrarians anywhere sending representatives to the alternative assembly. Around two dozen speakers who spoke during the debate on the keynote speech were unable to remember this happening either.

The gathering listened with interest to V.N. Akatyev, the well-known farmer from Moscow Oblast, who has successfully managed a peasant farm with his family for over five years now. He said convincingly that the introduction of a market in agricultural land would be disastrous for the whole peasantry, including private farmers.

The assembly sent a delegation to the "alternative" gathering. Then on returning from there State Duma Deputy G.V. Kulik said:

"I got the impression that those gathered at City Hall have been deliberately misinformed about the APR's position on the land issue. They are saying quite absurd things.... They claim we intend to confiscate land shares allocated to pensioners and other similar rubbish. They claim that the APR is opposed to the free disposal of subsidiary and dacha plots. Many people are raising the question of rights that in reality they already possess by law...."

The news that Russian Premier V.S. Chernomyrdin had delivered a half-hour speech at the landowners' congress evoked perplexity, uproar in the hall, and sharp rejoinders.

Someone asked aggrievedly:

"How much produce do these landowners provide?"

"Somewhere around 5 percent of total production is expected this year...."

"Then why did the premier go to their congress and not come to see those who provide the country with the other...95 percent and actually feed it?"

The idea of a government-imposed referendum on the introduction of private ownership of land did not meet with support in any speech from the rostrum at the eminent assembly. At the same time delegates also shared their concern at the incessant propaganda regarding this referendum. It was also pointed out that people have appeared in the countryside who would not be averse to rectifying the extremely serious financial position in which farms in all forms of ownership find themselves by selling some land. V.D. Arguchinskiy, chairman of the Altay Kray Agro-Industrial Complex Collective Action Coordinating Council, cited typical figures in his speech. Some 147,000 people took part in rural assemblies there. Of whom 140,300 people voiced resolute opposition to the buying and selling of agricultural land. The overwhelming majority. But there were also waverers....

"Gentlemen whom the regime has already allowed to plunder state property are now reaching out their grubby

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hands for land," Belgorod Oblast Deputy N.I. Nikitenko stressed.

"Take note," A.I. Shklovskiy, a machine operator at the "Borets" Kolkhoz in Moscow Oblast's Ramenskiy Rayon, said, echoing him, "people are trying to acquire land when they have no intention of personally working it. But what is to happen to us workers then? We will do better sticking with the kolkhoz...."

The peasantry's work and lives are being devalued not only by the threat of the imposition of reckless land speculation. A.P. Yemelyanov, chairman of the "Kayalskoye" Joint-Stock Company in Rostov Oblast, described how the Aksay Cultivator Plant has suspended production of trailers and is switching to Mercedes assembly. The well-known "Rostselmash" is standing idle. The peasants are being induced to use the wooden plow, or else their desire to do anything at all is being dispelled completely. Today local processing workers alone owe rural workers on the Don 80 billion rubles. A great deal of output finds no takers....

At the assembly writers Mikhail Alekseyev, Vasiliy Belov, and David Kugultinov and USSR people's artiste Klara Luchko resolutely opposed the major repartition of land. The latter in particular said that no member of the Russian intelligentsia can or should support the heedless buying and selling of our birthright. We cannot sell the Motherland.

Participants in the assembly were perfectly well aware of which forces now oppose the Russian peasantry. V.A. Starodubtsev, chairman of the Agrarian Union of Russia, put this very succinctly from the rostrum:

"Our hardest battle is not with the Chernomyrdins, Shakhrays, and Chubays' but with world capital, which directs their actions. World War III to divide up the world has already begun and it is now taking place in our peasant fields. If we stand firm, Russia too will rise up!..."

Media Issues

Government Views Critical Situation of TV, Radio

LD0211171195 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 2 Nov 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets started today's government sitting with an issue that was not on the agenda. The government returned to a problem that had a difficult discussion yesterday at the commission on operational matters — the inadmissibility of closing down a TV and radio company on the eve of an election.

According to Communications Minister Vladimir Bulgak, the failure of the country's whole TV and radio system is a reality. The chain of the TV and radio companies' debts to the communication workers and the debts of the latter to the power engineers continues to grow, and all the government decisions on mutual reckoning of debts or transferring them into state bonds are not, in practice, being carried out.

The discussion lasted no more than 10 minutes. Soskovets finalized it by reminding the meeting that Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin had forbidden the closure of TV and radio broadcasting on any account.

Military & Nuclear Issues

Barynkin Urges Need To Maintain Russia's Defenses

MM0311123195 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Nov 95 p 2

[Part one of article by Doctor of Military Sciences Colonel General Viktor Barynkin, chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff Main Operations Directorate, under the "Military Organizational Development: Problems and Opinions" rubric: "1. Is Russia at Risk of War?" — first paragraph is KRASNAYA ZVEZDA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] The democratic transformations that have taken place in our country have also done much to change the former bipolar model of the world. The confrontation between two different social systems is a thing of the past. But the question is: How far has the threat to Russia's national security been eliminated? Is Russia's future, on the eve of the 21st century, really cloudless? The chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff Main Operations Directorate ponders these and other problems.

It is hardly necessary to say yet again that the ending of the "Cold War" gave mankind a historic opportunity to build interstate relations on an entirely new footing. And much has already been done in this direction. But the unending war in the Balkans and certain other serious events of recent times are evidence of a different process. Alas, it must be noted that the world today still worships the cult of force, just as it did 1,000 years ago. Much of international and, indeed, domestic life is built on respect for the force of authority and the might of the state, including military might. It is apposite to recall the philosopher Aesop, who said in one of his fables many centuries ago that the hare cannot demand equality in the forest, because it does not have a lion's teeth and claws. Unfortunately, the Russian public, in the desire for peace, traditionally closes its eyes to the

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unpleasant facts of a harsh reality, and not infrequently becomes hostage to its own illusions.

At the same time real life provides eloquent evidence of the jealous care and touching concern displayed by the leading foreign states — whose example it is now fashionable for us to follow — toward their own armed forces. This is also indicated by the active use of military force where it could be avoided. It would be naive to think that the United States had no other means of influencing Panama or Grenada. But I suppose that in this way it demonstrated to the whole world the potential of its military might, so as to teach others a lesson.

NATO — the "Cold War" brainchild of the United States — is trying to get a second wind and making vigorous efforts to expand on the basis of our former Warsaw Pact allies. The admission of the Baltic republics to the bloc is also on the cards now. What is advancing rapidly eastward, toward Russia's borders, is not a network of joint enterprises producing consumer goods, but a military structure designed to use force to establish its own order of things. Many of NATO's defenders try to make out that it is an "exclusively political" organization with good, peaceful intentions. But not much would be left if the military trappings were removed from its political shell. And why are these "peaceful intentions" always accompanied by large numbers of civilian deaths? As has happened, for instance, in Yugoslavia.

Incidentally, events in Yugoslavia have graphically demonstrated the attitude toward countries not possessing impressive military strength and the corresponding authority. And now they no longer even reckon with Russia when making decisions to inflict air strikes on the Bosnian Serbs' positions! We must all finally realize that the existence of armed conflicts close to Russia is not only a matter of a web of political misunderstandings involving the use of weapons, but also the big politics of a "probing action" to analyze our potential. Similar conclusions can be drawn from events in Chechnya. All this shows yet again that virtually every armed conflict, in certain conditions, could develop into a local or regional war, since behind the warring parties there are always no mere dispassionate observers, but interested parties, states, and coalitions. For Russia this is also of fundamental importance for the following reason. We have an extremely long line of contact with various states and regions. What it amounts to in effect is that all armed conflicts in Europe and Asia are in direct proximity to Russia (which you cannot say of the United States, for instance) and affect its interests one way or another. That is why armed conflicts on the border that may be insignificant at first glance could produce effects equivalent to a local war.

Russia is a country with something to fight for. In the context of the growing energy crisis in the world, the feverish quest for raw materials and fuel forces states to engage in all kinds of adventures, even military. And our very rich national assets — timber, coal, oil, gas, gold, and other natural wealth — could be easy prey for anyone who decides to assuage his economic hunger with Russia's tasty pie. Can we say quite confidently that, say, the [Kuril] islands of Iturup and Kunashir will not become the target of the resolution of conflicts by force? Or Leningrad Oblast's Kingiseppskiy Rayon, or part of Karelia's territory, or the continental shelf in the Barents Sea?

We must also take into account that the exacerbation of territorial disputes between republics of the former Soviet Union, now our "near abroad," and their neighbors in the "far abroad" could also lead to an acute conflict between those states, into which Russia could be drawn. And that supplies the prerequisites for armed conflict as one way of resolving territorial claims. From conflict to war is just one step.

It should also be taken into account that alongside the traditional global centers of power (the United States, NATO) new regional centers have appeared in Russia's immediate vicinity (Turkey, Japan, China, Iran) which possess troops comparable and even superior in numbers to our own Armed Forces. In these conditions Russia is simply obliged to ensure the defense of its national interests, and this should be done first and foremost through the preservation and strengthening of military might, of which the Armed Forces are the concentrated expression. As the main instrument of the defense of the state and its interests, today they need substantial support, which is necessary in order to implement a whole package of state and military measures to ensure the guaranteed resolution of the tasks with which the Armed Forces are charged.

I would number among such measures of a military nature first and foremost the maintenance of the combat readiness and combat capability of the nuclear deterrent forces and also the general-purpose forces in a condition appropriate to the level of the military danger, primarily in the interests of deterrence against the unleashing of military conflicts of any kind against Russia and its allies.

Second, troops must be in constant readiness to cut short any armed conflicts on the state border or within the territory of contiguous states in accordance with treaty commitments. Our experience of military-political cooperation with the Republic of Tajikistan has demonstrated the effectiveness of this path. And also, incidentally, the

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need to widen the legal and normative base for military cooperation.

Finally, we cannot repudiate the capacity of states to demonstrate military strength with a view to preventing a potential aggressor from unleashing an armed conflict. That includes preventing attempts to encroach on Russia's vital national-state interests. We can and must, of course, make active use of new ways of ensuring military security, and first among these is participation in the disarmament process and the development of military cooperation with all countries whose policy is not detrimental to Russia's interests and not contrary to the UN Charter. I think there will also be an increase in the Armed Forces' participation in peacekeeping operations which are undertaken by the United Nations and the OSCE and which are in line with Russia's legislation and its interstate treaties, agreements, and commitments.

Clearly, at the present stage, in the context of the overcoming of confrontation and the strengthening of confidence in the military sphere, nonmilitary means naturally take priority in overcoming the threat to peace. But at the same time it must not be forgotten that nobody has abolished the Armed Forces' tasks in ensuring military security. And despite the conditions of severe financial shortages, thus far they are continuing to carry out those tasks quite effectively. What lies in store for us in the future is another matter. One would like to think that the state will at last turn its attention to the problems of the Army and Navy.

That it will remember the earlier plans for their organizational development. After all, it was planned by the year 2005 to set up fundamentally new Armed Forces, appropriate to Russia's interests and its economic and mobilization potential and capable of responding appropriately to any changes in the military-political and military-strategic situation in the world. But the question is: In view of the complex trends in the development of the modern multipolar world, the growth of conflict-generating processes in various regions, and the rise of extremism and terrorism, can it be guaranteed that Russia will not be drawn into a local or regional war? That question can hardly be answered with an unequivocal negative.

That is why we should provide for the possibility of developing Armed Forces that will be capable of reliably rebuffing the aggression of any potential enemy in a regional war, while at the same time deterring him in other strategic avenues.

On this basis, the main efforts in the organizational development of the Armed Forces through the year 2000 should be concentrated on continuing to bring their structure, composition, and numerical strength into line with present-day geostrategic, sociopolitical, and economic realities. And within the framework of improving the process of organizational development of the Armed Forces, a whole series of concrete measures should be carried out to ensure the maintenance of a high level of combat readiness of the strategic nuclear forces and their armaments, the improvement of the strategic leadership system and the rear and technical support system, and the development of the military infrastructure.

As for the development of the branches of the Armed Forces, if we assess realistically their present condition and the prospects for financing and the provision of arms and military hardware via industry, we can determine that the main task for them should be efforts to preserve the "nucleus of the branch" (the cadre structure, basic arms and military hardware, the most important elements of the branch's infrastructure) as well as long-term research and development, the mobilizational deployment base, and the structure of the command system.

In military-technical policy, the priority in the coming years should be the structural and technological reorganization of the country's defense industry potential, in order to achieve and preserve military-technical independence for Russia in the development and production of the main types of arms and military hardware in peacetime and in wartime. Here the priorities are to develop strategic arms and nuclear weapon systems, and to maintain the required level of combat readiness and ensure that combat-capable formations of troops on constant readiness are provided with up-to-date models of arms and military hardware on a priority basis.

In view of this, the question of going over to a single system of orders for general-purpose arms and military hardware for the Armed Forces and other Russian Federation troops is currently being examined energetically. The Defense Ministry is suggested as the single general client, with the coordinating role being assigned to the Economics Ministry.

As you can see, these are big plans. But will we be able to implement them given the present state of the country's economy and legal base? Will our Armed Forces, by the year 2005, be the way we saw them at the very beginning of the democratic transformations?

In the conditions of a multipolar world and an unstable military-political situation, the Armed Forces, in spite of everything, are still the most effective instrument of state policy for the defense of the fundamental, vital interests of Russia and its citizens. But let me stress again that all the diverse and large-scale tasks involved in their organizational development could

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prove mere good intentions unless radical measures are taken to improve their funding. The need to adjust the expenditure side of the federal budget and to bring defense spending into line with real price increases is quite obvious. And this is the main condition on which the combat readiness of Russia's Army and Navy depends directly.

Northern Fleet Exercise 'Successfully Carried Out'

MM0211144095 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 28 Oct 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast: Video report from Northern Fleet exercises by G. Smirnova, identified by caption; figures in brackets denote broadcast time in GMT in hours, minutes, and seconds]

[FBIS Translated Text] [201704] [Smirnova over video of warships] Despite problems with fuel, ship repairs, and power supplies, delays in the payment of wages, and other difficulties, the Northern Fleet is managing to put to sea and fulfill its tasks.

Exercises involving surface ships, nuclear submarines, and Air Force aircraft have ended. Missile, artillery, and torpedo firing practices were successfully carried out. The main missile system of the aircraft carrier Admiral Kuznetsov demonstrated high precision. [video shows missile disappearing into the sky] Deck-borne aircraft pilots of the heavy aircraft-carrying cruiser carried our their tasks successfully. [video shows aircraft taking off from Admiral Kuznetsov] The ship's crew is ready to carry out alert duty tasks. The ship will shortly leave on a long voyage.

[I. Naletov, Northern Fleet chief of staff, identified by caption] The Fleet has demonstrated its high skill and the ability to carry out set tasks at sea to a high standard. [201755]

Newscast Shows Baltic Fleet's 'Calamitous State'

MM0211150795 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 1100 GMT 20 Oct 95

[From the "Novosti 2x2" newscast: Announcer-read report from Kaliningrad]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer over video of rusting ships] The Baltic Fleet, which used to be Russia's pride, is now rusting in a number of Baltic ports, of which Kaliningrad is one. Because of a shortage of money for even the most basic repairs, 50 ships have not put to sea since 1993.

Another reason for the calamitous state of the Baltic Fleet is the fact that following the collapse of the Soviet Union, ships which were formerly based in Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia were crammed into Russian ports which are simply not equipped to service such a large number of ships. [video shows ships in various stages of disrepair]

Military, MVD, Tax Police, Customs Get Pay Raise

MK0311123795 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 3 Nov 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "All Those With Shoulder Boards Have Gotten a Raise"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As little as a month an a half after the decision to increase pay by a factor of 1.54 for employees of budget-financed institutions, Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin has signed a directive raising pay and allowances for servicemen and staffers of the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs], tax police, and customs.

Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin also approved in his directive new base pay rates for military positions and (special) military ranks. Salaries for people wearing shoulder boards have been raised 54 percent.

The pay has been raised retroactively. Already in November, military men, militiamen, tax policemen, and customs officers will draw additional pay due to them as of 1 September. Incidentally, the raise does not apply to servicemen temporarily posted abroad (the Russian military contingents in Yugoslavia and Tajikistan). They will be paid their allowances in hard currency, regardless of the raise, until their return to Russia.

Thus, the average pay of a major in the internal affairs organs will be upped to 1,350,000 rubles [per month].

Denial of Nuclear Oversight of Forces Questioned

MK0111135495 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 31 Oct 95 p 2

[Analysis by Abram Ioyrysh, professor at the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of State and Law; Yevgeniy Nesterov, State Duma Ecology Committee section chief; and Candidate of Technical Sciences Yuriy Rogozhin: "Military Atom Under Its Own Control. Dispute Between the Russian Federation Defense Ministry and the State Committee for the Supervision of Nuclear and Radiation Safety Should Be Resolved on a Legislative Basis"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In late July the president signed an executive order whereby the Russian Federation State Committee for the Supervision of Nuclear and Radiation Safety [Gosatomnadzor] was stripped of responsibility to oversee the nuclear and radiation security of defense installations which arouse concern in this respect, such as nuclear submarine reactors and nuclear ammunition.

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The corresponding functions were transferred directly to the Defense Ministry.

The unequal standoff between the Defense Ministry and Gosatomnadzor goes back to the time when the latter was created in late 1991. In addition to the functions of the analogous union agency, it was tasked with exercising state supervision not only of civilian but also defense nuclear energy uses. The Statute on the Russian Federation State Committee for the Supervision of Nuclear and Radiation Safety, approved by the 5 June 1992 presidential directive, empowered Gosatomnadzor to conduct unhindered inspections at such defense facilities, nuclear submarines, and army nuclear weapons depots.

The issue of giving civilian officials access to defense installations, moreover with oversight functions, became the stumbling block for the idea of instituting extra-departmental control over the nonpeaceful atom. The military bristled immediately, refusing to allow Gosatomnadzor inspectors to their depots and naval bases. The formal grounds were the possibility of a leak about the disposition and other data relating to defense installations falling under the jurisdiction of the official secrets law. At the same time all assurances by Gosatomnadzor officials that only specially screened persons, mainly from among former military servicemen who had earlier worked at these installations, would be used for these purposes were ignored.

Without running the risk of offending Russian special services, it is logical to surmise that in actual fact the Defense Ministry defends its nuclear facilities for a quite different reason. The military's position stems from an unwillingness, understandable to every housewife, to allow outsiders into an untidy kitchen.

Eyewitnesses say that the culture of nuclear safety on nuclear submarines bears no comparison with the way it is organized at our nuclear power stations, although the latter are themselves far from perfect and are justly criticized for it by the "Greens." Early last year, based on its own data, Gosatomnadzor described the state of nuclear and radiation security in the Navy as "unsatisfactory." The episode cited earlier in this article only goes to corroborate this appraisal.

The institution of civilian oversight at the Defense Ministry threatened to put an equals mark between military and civil nuclear installations in terms of safety standards. From the position of the population living in the vicinity, this cannot be any different, but for the military command at all levels it presaged a big headache and much trouble, for not only purely subjective reasons. It is enough to mention the problem of raising very substantial funds to bring the nuclear safely level of their installations up to IAEA-recommended standards.

True, there is one circumstance which in the military's opinion could compensate, albeit partially, for the troubles related to the institution of civilian oversight (the sharing of responsibility for possible nuclear accidents with the supervisory agency). The military was prepared to agree that the documents certifying the safety of defense nuclear installations, along with their own signatures, should also bear the signatures of Gosatomnadzor representatives, but on condition of responsibility being equal. And then, in the event of a nuclear accident at a particular installation, not only its commander but also a Gosatomnadzor inspector would be held responsible with the full rigor of the law.

Incidentally, the blame for the Chernobyl catastrophe was divided between the operating organization and the USSR Gosatomnadzor — the Russian agency's similarly named predecessor. The station's Gosatomnadzor inspection chief was imprisoned, and all his protestations about not being responsible for the accident were ignored.

There was a certain logic in it: Rights should be backed up with responsibility for exercising them. It is hard to imagine a situation when an officer exercising the rights of at least a platoon commander would not take responsibility for the consequences of his orders. Therefore the military could not understand why, in seeking certain powers, the present Gosatomnadzor has in fact shirked proportional responsibility.

It is symptomatic that the Gosatomnadzor regulations speak about the agency's functions and powers in exercising those functions, but say virtually nothing about responsibility.

True, a whole section subheaded "Policy Statement" is devoted to the question of shared responsibility, but even so it states that "juridical and natural persons... who engage on the territory of the Russian Federation in any activity related to the production or use of nuclear materials, atomic energy, or radioactive substances... bear full and final responsibility for the safety of their activity, including responsibility for damage from radioactive emissions." Although the document comprises a whole paragraph about the responsibility of Gosatomnadzor itself, it is difficult to read anything legally binding in it except for the "responsibility for establishing safety criteria," and even then it is not clear how this responsibility is to be enforced.

Furthermore, it should be noted that the Policy Statement is a departmental document and therefore will have no legal force, for instance, in a court case.

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It seems that Gosatomnadzor wants to hedge its bets against the sad fate of many of its Soviet predecessors. But the state must show concern for the security not only of its officers, whatever their rank. There is also a pressing need to ensure the safety of broad sections of the population and the preservation of the environment. It is from this perspective that the institution of state supervision of defense nuclear installations should be addressed.

In conclusion, considering the exceptional importance of this issue, we shall venture to say that the debate on this score between the power department and the civilian department should be resolved not through hasty executive branch decisions but on a legislative basis. And if the latter is insufficient, urgent measures are then required to close the gap.

Specialists and individual deputies have managed to push through the Federal Assembly a package of laws constituting a basis for Russian atomic law: "On Nuclear Energy Uses," "On Radioactive Waste," and "On the Radiation Safety of the Population." However, all of them have been vetoed by the president. The official reasons put forward by the president are not of a principled character, but it is known for a fact that the president is coming under pressure from the military to exclude the Defense Ministry from the effects of these laws. That they can have their way is evident from the above presidential executive order on abolishing independent oversight of defense nuclear facilities.

Federal Assembly

Kulik: Revised Budget 'Will Make Even the Papuans Laugh'

MK0211152095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 2 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by Svetlana Lolayeva: "Conciliation Commission Has Recalculated 1996 Budget Major Parameters. However, It Pleases No One, As Before"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday the conciliation commission on the 1996 budget, after several hours spent discussing budget revenues in connection with the alteration of the tax legislation, failed to come to a decision on most issues under consideration. The parliamentarians turned down three major proposals by the government — on raising value-added tax (VAT) from 20 to 21 percent; on the procedure for accounting proceeds from sales on the shipment of products, but not on the actual return of the revenue; and on introducing a penalty mechanism for regulating expenditure on wages. The commission members failed to find compromise options regarding the abolition of profit tax privileges for the nascent small businesses; profit allocated for the formation of contingency funds for taxpayers; and profit earmarked for construction, development, and reconstruction of facilities in the non-industrial sphere. The deputies agreed with the government's proposals on terminating VAT concessions for imported technological equipment (stipulating that a list of equipment which is not produced in the Russian Federation but for which this concession is retained, be provided in the budget); on exempting from taxation money obtained from other enterprises, provided that the finance has not been received for commodities and services offered for sale; and on partially restoring allowances for housing construction.

Summing up two days of work by the conciliation commission, First Deputy Finance Minister Vladimir Petrov presented new calculations of the major budget parameters, adjusted for the altered average monthly inflation rate of 1.9 percent. In accordance with these adjustments and with a preliminary assessment of GDP in 1995, total GDP in 1996 is assumed at 2,300 trillion rubles [R]. Taking into account the revision of tax revenue by the inflation index, and the rejection by the conciliation commission of the government's proposals on tax alterations, the budget revenues will decline by R17.9 trillion. The budget deficit will grow in absolute terms from R81.8 trillion to R87.65 trillion. The expenditure section of the budget will be reduced by R12.1 trillion.

After the objectionable verdict had been heard, Budget Committee Deputy Chairman Gennadiy Kulik, from the Agrarian faction, claimed that such an outcome is impossible to submit to the Duma since, despite the increased inflation rate, the expenditure section is going downward just the same. He proposed that all major budget parameters in regard to GDP be preserved in the amount envisaged by the first draft budget: revenue — 15.8 percent of GDP, deficit — 3.9 percent of GDP, financing of the deficit out of internal sources to the value of 2.4 percent of GDP. At the same time, according to Mr. Kulik's estimates, given that the initial GDP growth rate is maintained, its volume in 1996 must reach R2,445 trillion, and not R2,300 trillion.

However, according to Deputy Economics Minister Ivan Materov, with this year's GDP amounting to no more than R1,600 trillion, its volume in 1996 will not exceed R2,300 trillion. Vladimir Petrov, in turn, argued that since nontax profit is not subject to inflation-dependent indexation, the total revenue portion of GDP will not exceed 15.4 percent. Despite the rejoinder by Gennadiy Kulik that "this budget will make even the Papuans laugh," the parliamentarians agreed with the arguments presented by the representatives of economic agencies,

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and, in order to raise more revenue, decided to get back to the consideration of the government's tax proposals.

The deficit level triggered a heated discussion. According to Deputy Finance Minister Andrey Kazmin, the level of the deficit must not exceed the R81.8 trillion budgeted in the original draft, since the external sources can only account for R32.5 trillion, and given the strain on internal resources, estimated at R49.4 trillion, attracting several extra trillions to finance a larger deficit seems unlikely. Defense Committee Deputy Chairman Aleksandr Piskunov, on the contrary, insisted that the deficit be increased to 5 percent of GDP, claiming that with the lower deficit level it would be impossible to finance the military spending in a more or less reasonable amount.

However, neither these proposals nor two more regarding deficit levels of 3.9 and 2.4 percent of GDP plus the amount of external debt were approved by the conciliation commission, since by the voting time, only two commission members from the Federation Council were left at the session. In this connection, senator Aleksandr Titkin called on the deputies to review their position on the law on forming the upper chamber, because the fact that only representatives of the provincial elite were delegated to attend it was paralyzing the activity of the Federal Assembly.

Duma Questions Constitutionality of Electoral Law

LD0211215295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1842 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 2 (INTERFAX) — The Russian State Duma intends to ask the Constitutional Court to probe the constitutionality of several provisions of the law on elections to the lower house of the Russian parliament.

Duma deputy Vyacheslav Nikonov, one of the authors of the motion, told INTERFAX Thursday that the appeal on the issue signed by the required number of 90 Duma deputies will be filed to the Constitutional Court within two days.

In particular, deputies ask for the clarification of whether the provisions of the law giving the Central Electoral Commission "legislative and judicial powers" are constitutional in the light of the division of authority principle.

Duma deputy Irina Khakamada told a news conference in the State Duma Thursday that the decision to deny registration to the Yabloko and Derzhava (Great Power) blocs headed by Grigoriy Yavlinskiy and Aleksandr Rutskoy respectively is only the beginning, and more abuses on the part of the Central Electoral Commission are to follow.

Khakamada and Nikonov believe that "the only chance to save the elections and ensure the representative nature of the new State Duma is to amend the present electoral law."

The authors of the amendments intend to submit them for discussion in the Duma on November 10. According to Khakamada, the amendments, which provide for lowering the 5 percent minimum of votes and introducing a two-stage vote in single-mandate constituencies, "will not change the main concept of the law." That is why the deputies believe it possible to introduce the amendments even after the beginning of the election campaign.

Rybkin: 'Feasible' To Amend Law

LD0211210695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1615 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 2 (INTERFAX) — It is quite feasible to amend the existing electoral law before the parliamentary elections, State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin told journalists Thursday. In particular, the stipulation on the required five-percent barrier for election associations could well be removed, he added.

Rybkin doubted that the future Duma will be representative, if "the opinion of only 40 percent of electors will be considered, while that of the remaining 60 percent will not." He referred to Israel's electoral legislation which does not contain such a restrictive measure, though the country has only two major parties. "Leaders of major factions likely to succeed at the elections should think about it now, because their victory may turn out Pyrrhic," he underlined.

The main reason for the abundance of blocs, movements and associations is the lack of "crystallization of parties in Russia," he added.

"Communists and agrarians have been structuring their parties for all this time, while those in power have been acting heedlessly, resting on their laurels, like the Soviet Communist Party in its last years," Rybkin remarked.

If the five-percent barrier is preserved, only three to four elections associations will be able to win the future elections, he added.

At the same time, he did not doubt that his own bloc will successfully surmount the barrier.

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Duma Adopts Statement on U.S. Congress Anti-Cuba Bill

MM0211144195 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Nov 95 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Americans Once Again Teaching Us How To Live"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The State Duma has adopted a statement on the "Helms-Burton Bill." The document notes that the U.S. Congress House of Representatives' adoption of this bill constitutes a move that contravenes international law and the norms of civilized relations between countries. This bill tightens up the U.S. embargo on Cuba and envisages sanctions against states and people that maintain economic links with the republic.

The statement says that Russia has based and will continue to base its relations with Cuba on its own national interests. It is inadmissible to dictate the kind of policy it should pursue toward other states. And the threat of the application of sanctions can only be detrimental to the development of normal Russian-U.S. relations. Hope is expressed that the destructive bill will not acquire the force of law in the United States.

The State Duma has issued a decree instructing the State Duma chairman to make the content of the statement known to the U.S. Congress and Administration as well as the leadership of the Republic of Cuba and foreign governments and parliaments.

Duma Claims Children's Programs Inadequately Funded

MM0211202595 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Nov 95 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Where 'Children's' Money Is Going"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The State Duma has adopted a decree stating that members of the State Duma Committee for Women, the Family, and Young People are pointing out that the annual conclusions on the draft federal budget submitted by the government ignore the priority principle of funding for social programs. In particular, the presidential program "Children of Russia" and the targeted programs "Development of the Baby Food Industry in the Russian Federation" and "Family Planning" are being not fully funded or are funded with delays.

The State Duma has instructed the Russian Federation Comptroller's Office to verify the government's execution of the federal budget for 1995 in respect of the funding of the "Children of Russia" program and of programs and measures in the sphere of youth policy. The Comptroller's Office has also been instructed to verify the targeted utilization by specific recipients of the federal budget funds allocated for specific purposes.

Duma Urged To Protect State Secrets

MK0211125095 Moscow ROSSIYA in Russian No. 37, 1-7 Nov 95 p 3

[Report by Vladimir Trofimov, doctor of economic sciences: "How Much Is a Kilo of Secrets in the Duma"]

[FBIS Translated Text] An especially popular subject of late in the press has been looking for the channels that are leaking state secrets from the State Duma. The [Duma's] International Affairs Committee has been mentioned in this regard. Well, what is it that the foreign enemy is stealing there? Are materials from open parliamentary hearings of interest to him?

Of course, foreigners can cull some things of interest to them even from these. Any piece of information may prove useful. Whether state secrets are divulged or not in the process is another matter.

Even more interesting things can be heard in hearings from which the press is barred but which are not secret — for example, why the payment of [military] officers' salaries is being delayed and to what end this "saved" money goes. Also in these hearings, the deputies learn with interest that no nuclear bomb has ever been developed in the DPRK [Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea] and that there is no weapons-grade plutonium stockpile there, and that this outrageous story was invented with certain political ends in mind. One can also learn that the American program to improve antimissile weapons — naturally, the one officially published — may come into conflict with the 1972 Treaty on Organizing Antimissile Defense Systems only in the next millennium. But this is a very big secret, because we will soon be assured that we managed to force the Americans not to violate the 1972 treaty, and thus it is now possible to safely ratify START II. In such hearings they also say that Russia's economy is in a state of ruin like that after the Great Patriotic War, and the army in a state of ruin like it was before the war.

This list of interesting fact goes on, but the result would be the same — all these are secrets for Russian citizens, not for those abroad. Real secrets are sent in by ministers for hearings in the Duma in written form and are appropriately stamped. It is true that a contradiction between the law on state secrets and a deputy's status gives rise to a paradox. In accordance with their status, deputies have the right to read any documents. In accordance with the above law, they are

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supposed to have a clearance for work with secrets. Almost none have such clearances!

As for unclassified Duma publications, it would be useful to know that there is officially accredited to it a representative of the Library of the U.S. Congress who is sending, through a computer link across the Atlantic, all needed and unneeded papers in a matter of seconds, not minutes. Incidentally, he was on the staff of the International Affairs Committee of the former Supreme Soviet and changed his role late in the summer of 1993. Thus, there are all sorts of apparatchiks in the parliament. There are some whom a foreign embassy all of a sudden begins to invite regularly to its receptions. What do such "birds" "sing" there?

Luckily, there are almost no technological secrets in the Duma. First, the deputies are uninterested in the niceties of some engineering solutions for an "invisible" plane. Second, foreign services have already established rather legal channels of getting such information from Russia. They are no longer so much interested in our old inventions as in tomorrow's discoveries. And those are in the heads of some intelligent Russian fellows. Under the guise of all sorts of foreign funds, they are paid small grants so as not to die of hunger. Not for nothing, of course. In exchange, they give their own ideas, whose real price we are going to learn 10 or so years from now. Incidentally, the Foreign Ministry has just submitted to the Duma for ratification yet another similar project — an agreement on setting up in Moscow an International Scientific and Technical Center.

If there is something really of interest to foreigners in the Duma, it is not little secrets, but something totally different. One of the key areas for Western special services in Russia today is work with our cadres. The most minute details are being collected about the private and public lives of politicians, military men, public servants, businessmen — favorite cigarettes, bad habits, way of thinking, and so on.

Furthermore, the Americans, for example, classify an overwhelming majority of Russian publications according to semantic groupings, and each of them is put on a computer card. As a result, using a computer, one can analyze both the problem and the author's personality. Clearly, that information is also being collected about politically promising young people. There are plenty of such old and young people in the Duma.

The method of collecting such information is not new; it is usually dubbed a "mosaic," and it came to be widely used by the Germans half a century ago. The objective of collecting all these unclassified bits and pieces is to gain an opportunity to influence corresponding persons using direct and indirect means. Think, for example, of the way the Americans made public information on Kurt Waldheim's having served in the German army. There was a politician, and then he vanished. They also have some information about us. For example, for those curious to know, the GKChP [State Committee for the State of Emergency] flopped in accordance with an entirely different scenario than the one regularly fed to us on television. But if the truth, which they in the West undoubtedly know, is to be revealed, the careers of some Russian politicians would be at an end. Here is an element of dependence for you.

I can also give more recent examples. It is clear, for example, that a country like the United States has its own interests in our Duma. It either quietly lobbies for passing one set of questions, or sees to it that the other questions get thrown out, or it simply keeps a hand on the pulse. Well then, if someone has sufficient patience and gumption to figure out what these interests are under various situations, he would suddenly discover that the same two or three unassuming names among the more active Duma members would constantly come to the surface in all these cases. That may prove a very exciting subject to pursue.

Mistaken are those thinking that missiles, tanks, and guns are going to defend Russia in future conflicts. In order for the missiles to get aloft and the troops to leave their barracks, one has to press the button, to give the command. The circle of commanders is indeed limited. We already can see the way this mechanism failed in late 1991. The same thing may happen next without a single shot being fired. We, as always, are getting ready for the war that was, whereas clever people are getting ready for a future war. Objectives in that war will not be achieved by shooting, but rather by controlling key persons in the state apparatus.

Incidentally, the extent to which those in the West are informed about the details of our military secrets is sometimes striking. Materials recently reached my desk from a session in Washington attended by American senators, which discussed various details of a rather recent Russian military plan for a nuclear strike against the United States codenamed "Mertvaya ruka [Dead Hand]." I think that this plan is a closely guarded secret in our country known to few people, not in parliament at any rate.

As for corruption and financial fraud in the Duma, all these are no greater than in some other institutions. There is still openness [glasnost] in the Duma, of whatever sort, and they even manage to disclose and end some abuses. For example, an outwardly innocuous [draft] treaty with Turkey on avoiding dual taxation was recently submitted to the Duma for ratification. Page 20

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had a small paragraph in small print exempting Turkish builders in Russia from all taxes. Included by accident? Turks repaired both the White House and the Duma and hundreds of millions of dollars were flying hither and thither like that. The International Affairs Committee prevented ratification of this treaty. Do I have to give the names of those in the Foreign Ministry who were actively lobbying for it?

They have begun of late to tighten the rules for working with classified materials in the Duma. This is right, and it is about time. The same should also be done in the other places.

Regional Affairs

Chechnya Reportage: Military, Negotiations, Politics

Grachev Rejects War's Responsibility

MK0211142095 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by Andrey Poleshchuk on interview with Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev: "Pavel Grachev Does Not Seek To Shed Anyone's Blood. But the Situation in Chechnya Puts Him Into Bellicose Mood"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On his way home after a busy week in the United States, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev talked for an hour and a half with the Russian journalists who accompanied him on the trip aboard his plane. The conversation was frank — and sometimes, off-the-record [preceding word in English as "off-record"]. Army General Grachev touched upon many an urgent topic, including Chechnya. Below is the minister's somewhat abridged monologue, with a minimum of editing, during which he did not demand that tape recorders be switched off.

As for Chechnya. First, write that I have never been the chairman of the "party of war." And I have never been a proponent of an active use of force, including in Chechnya. In the end, history will dot the "i's" and cross the "t's," what there was and how. Later I will tell everything in detail.

As regards Chechnya and the talk that I am a person who lives exclusively by blood and war, I think that I am a normal and reasonable person, and I have never sought to shed anyone's blood. But I personally cannot put up with what is coming about there now. Unfortunately, we have been going to extremes for many years now. There was communism; it was overthrown, and a democracy set in. The democracy degenerated into anarchy. It was bad; we backed away from it. We still do not know what we want. The people will probably make clear what we now want.

The same thing in Chechnya. First, there was silence. Everybody was silent! Everybody lowered his eyes; it was none of anybody's business when Dudayev captured all the equipment and weapons from 1991 to 1992, created an army, had all that approved by parliament, and so forth. And everybody shyly kept silent until 1995. Neither the prosecutor's office nor you, my journalist friends, nor other agencies that should have dealt with that business have said how this actually happened. Suddenly a war breaks out; the dead and wounded emerge, and then they raise Cain! And then they start mulling who is right and who is wrong. Aha, it is Grachev who is to blame! Wait a minute! When all these arms were siphoned off, there were responsible officials, there was the prosecutor's office, the FSB [Federal Security Service], there were reports on what was going on. Now, it seems to me, things are drawing to a close, and the prosecutor's office has a good opportunity to say who is right and who is wrong.

Chechnya is not a foreign conflict. This is rioting and banditry within one, single country. Military and economic measures must be taken here, and the situation should be cleared up in a politically correct way. But none of that has happened. And then some began to say that Grachev is shedding blood over there.

Of course, I accept part of the blame. I am to blame for the deaths of people. But I cannot be blamed in the sense that it was Grachev who started the fighting. Military men never start wars.

Second. We go on fighting; there are just two or three weeks left. We have driven these bandit formations into the mountains, but all of a sudden — stop! Stop combat operations, pull back from the mountains, start a negotiating process. With whom do we talk peacefully? With Dudayev? He was declared a state criminal! With other government members? There are none. Maskhadov emerges. Who is he?! Who has authorized him? And there we are, sitting down to negotiate with this criminal!

We went to another extreme: The peace process. Nothing else exists any longer! Every day reports come in: 50 or more incidents of shooting at Russian posts.... Every day our men get killed and wounded. No reaction. I cannot fire a single shot. I cannot carry out a single operation, otherwise these bandits will refuse to negotiate with us! Good heavens, who are these people?!

I cannot put up with the ongoing extermination of Russian soldiers. Civilians are being killed; two leaders of the negotiating process have been blown up. Silence! I

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ask the prosecutor's office, "How many lawsuits have you filed and how many cases have been solved involving the bandits?" None! "How many lawsuits have you filed and how many cases have you solved involving our servicemen who allegedly murder civilians?" Hundreds! Where is justice, I am asking you? So, servicemen are right when they ask me: Defense minister, how long will we continue being killed and do nothing? Answer our question: Do they need us there or do they not? And however much I may be criticized, I will always say that peace talks should be alternated with thrashing those who do not understand that.

Shkirko: Maskhadov Knew of Vedeno Attack

LD0211203295 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 2 Nov 95

[Video report from Groznyy by correspondent Grigoriy Brynza; from the "Vremya" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Anatoliy Shkirko, commander of the joint group of forces in Chechnya, said today that Aslan Maskhadov and Shirvani Basayev, members of the special supervisory commission, had known for certain about preparations for the attack against the convoy of federal forces [on 25 October]. May I remind you that 18 Russian servicemen died in this attack carried out in Vedenskiy District. The peace talks and the implementation of the agreement on the bloc of military issues are not likely to resume soon.

I am not going to sit down at the negotiating table with dishonest people, General Shkirko added. He also said it is still unknown what happened to Lieutenant Colonel Maksimenko and Private Moroz. They accompanied the delegation of Aslan Maskhadov and went missing on 22 October. At present, no active combat operations are being conducted. However, Gen. Shkirko does nor rule out that they may resume in some regions:

[Begin A. Shkirko, commander of the joint group of federal forces in Chechnya, recording] It is possible that illegal armed formations may intensify their activity. We are taking measures to contain them. If fighting starts, all necessary measures will be taken and all means and forces at our disposal will be used. I still believe there are quite a lot of sensible people in the illegal armed formations who realize that this means new casualties and, what is more frightening, new casualties among civilians. [Video shows a road patrol, an explosive device in Presidential Palace, an armored vehicle, Groznyy streets, a crowd of people, a car with bullet marks] [end recording] [passage omitted]

Real fighting between a subunit of federal forces and a local OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment] team nearly broke out at this place [near the Presidential Palace] today. After searching a car, a mobile road patrol seized a small firearm and arrested two people who were in the car. Local police tried to free the arrested people. Shooting started. Both sides were shooting in the air. The arrested people tried to escape and came under fire. One man was killed.

Lt-Gen Shkirko Views Chechen Situation

MM0211144695 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Nov 95 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Lieutenant General Anatoliy Shkirko, commander of the interim integrated grouping of federal forces in the Chechen Republic, by Lieutenant Colonel Yuriy Gavrilov and Major Vladimir Berezko; place and date not given: "Bandits Will Not Abandon Their Weapons That Easily" — first paragraph is KRASNAYA ZVEZDA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] From KRASNAYA ZVEZDA file: Lieutenant General Anatoliy Afanasyevich Shkirko, born in 1947 in Groznyy. He graduated from the Ordzhonikidze higher command school of the Internal Affairs Ministry's internal troops , the M.V. Frunze Academy, and the General Staff. His last post was as chief of staff of the Russian Internal Affairs Ministry internal troops.

[Correspondents] Anatoliy Afanasyevich, since 14 October you have headed the federal forces in Chechnya. Has the military-political situation in the republic changed?

[Shkirko] The situation remains complex. It is characterized primarily by the presence of an enormous quantity of weapons in the hands of illegal armed formations. And not only those who are subordinate to Maskhadov but also the gunmen operating independently. We should mention various bandit formations as well. The latter, under cover of the idea of Chechnya's national independence, are engaged in overt murder, plundering, and robbery.

So that when people speak of the actions in the republic of some kind of "third force" there is no doubt they are being duplicitous. One could just as readily call the bandits under no one's jurisdiction a "fifth," "sixth," or even some other force.

Political stability also persists. Unfortunately, we cannot say today that all official structures which should function in the republic are operating 100 percent and are influencing all or most of Chechnya.

Dudayev's propaganda is also influencing the situation quite actively. Using various rumors and stories a

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considerable number of "specialists" are generalizing them and spreading them in literally every region of Chechnya. When you analyze the situation attentively you reach the conclusion that where the local organs of power and the population can be observed to have departed from Dudayev's positions tension is instantly artificially stoked. The gunmen scorn neither threats of reprisal nor the direct use of force. Take Achkhoy-Martan. Here the local administration rejected military confrontation and engaged in peaceful constructive work. And what do you think? Immediately not far from this population center a detachment of over 120 gunmen appeared. Dudayev's envoys began to spread rumors about the allegedly imminent deportation of the Chechens and about how only the strong-arm method would help "avoid looting and rape by the Russian servicemen."

This "propaganda," it must be said, is having some influence among civilians. This is borne out by the meetings held almost daily in various population centers. So it seems to me we should be more objective in analyzing what is happening at meetings and who goes there and in what numbers. Incidentally, many Russian inhabitants get their ideas about the meetings only from not always reliable television reports. For instance, about 30,000 people live in Shali yet no more than a hundred of them constantly take part in meetings. In Groznyy 150-200 people go out onto a square and the reports film them as though almost all the inhabitants of the Chechen capital were taking part in a meeting....

Nonetheless it must be admitted that the meetings and the shooting will continue. The bandits will not abandon their weapons that easily. Time and specific decisions are needed to stabilize the situation.

[Correspondents] Probably these decisions could be made successfully by the Special Observer Commission? The results of its work attest unequivocally to that so far. As cochairman of the special observer commission what ways do you see for the commission to begin work again?

[Shkirko] Indeed, representatives of the Special Observer Commission have done a lot for the peaceful settlement of the conflict. On a whole series of matters they have managed to achieve the sides' agreement. Compromise solutions have been found for several vexed questions and the mechanisms for their settlement have been defined. The further negotiations process has been impeded by acts of terrorism, including against Lieutenant General Anatoliy Romanov. Nonetheless the activity of the Special Observer Commission is continuing. So far at working meeting level.

It is perhaps worth clarifying the contradictions regarding the venue for meetings of the commission's representatives. It is known that the Russian side is asking for the talks to be moved outside Groznyy. I consider this demand absolutely justified. At the previous venue, close to the republican military commissariat, people were constantly gathering and openly trying to influence the course of the talks. But passions have never helped the search for a sensible decision. Now the question is being worked on. I hope that the venue for our talks will be set at a place where the commission will be able to work most effectively and will be free from any psychological pressure.

[Correspondents] There is another Chechen reality. Virtually every day shooting is heard and servicemen and civilians are dying. In Groznyy itself the bandits often feel they can act with impunity.

[Shkirko] Unfortunately you are right. But, I repeat, many structures, including law enforcement structures, are only just being created in the republic. We are helping them as we can. For instance, on the streets of Groznyy a joint patrol by the Chechen police and the federal forces servicemen has been organized. And they cover over 100 itineraries. There is joint service at the majority of checkpoints. Joint operations have been carried out to reveal weapons caches and depots and to arrest criminals. Of course with time the entire package of questions connected with safeguarding public safety and order in Chechnya will be assigned to the republic's Internal Affairs Ministry but so far they cannot manage without our help. And there are already concrete results. For instance, on the routes jointly patrolled in Groznyy only one law violation was recorded in October and I think that is thanks to the fact that criminals assiduously avoid meeting with the patrols.

If we are talking of collaboration I want to say that it has been firmly set up within the federal forces. We make all decisions jointly, we assess them in detail, and consider the potential of each power structure belonging to the integrated forces. I have formed truly businesslike relations with Lieutenant General Aleksandr Naumov, commander of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry grouping of forces in Chechnya, with whom I once studied at the General Staff military academy.

[Correspondents] Our servicemen's relations and friends are very worried about how they will spend the winter here. Many units and subunits are literally in the field without even the most elementary conditions. What awaits them?

[Shkirko] Work to provide amenities at the places where the units are deployed is continuing even now, although so far it is indeed too early to speak of its completion.

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But the Russian Government knows of the problems of the troops in Chechnya and it is seeking the necessary funds. Naturally the units are not sitting by idly either.

Over the past week alone five cars reached us carrying winter clothing. We are monitoring all deliveries and distributing them promptly. I think that the personnel will be fully prepared for the winter. As for the problems caused by the military situation, they are natural. But we shall resolve them too.

Troops Defuse Bomb in Groznyy

LD0211130195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1238 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Nov 2 (INTERFAX) — Federal field engineers defused a powerful home-made explosive device in Groznyy Wednesday [1 November]. The federal troops commander's press center told INTERFAX that the explosive device had been planted on the first floor of the former presidential palace.

As the field engineers were defusing the device and federal representatives were investigating the incident, they came under intensive fire. Fortunately, no one was injured.

The investigator reached the conclusion that the explosion was to occur during massive events, causing enormous losses among civilians.

The explosive device consisted of 12 trinitrotoluene cartridges, 3 kilograms each, and an electric fuse.

The incident suggests that Chechen militants are preparing terrorist acts in the Chechen capital, said sources in the federal command.

Bombings Linked To Illegal Arms Trade

MK0311123295 Moscow NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 41, 2-8 Nov 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Who Ordered the Bombing of Roshni-Chu"]

[FBIS Translated Text] If UFOs have appeared in the sky, surely there must be generals commanding them. The generals themselves think that they are also without identification marks.

The defense minister states officially that he does not know who bombed Roshni-Chu, killing 28 civilians (not a single combatant). The Military Prosecutor's Office has acknowledged the "bombing incident." The Air Defense Forces commander, whose fighters were supposed to have cut short the flight by unidentified aircraft, has remained in post. After Rust's excursion [when German citizen Johannes Rust landed a light plane on Red Square], everybody flew to Red Square — from minister to air defense unit commanders. This time everybody has stayed in his place. This means only one thing: They conspired. They knew everything. They "controlled the situation" and the SU aircraft took off and dropped their bombs following express orders. The "non-thief" Grachev should file a suit over the theft: Aircraft were sneaked from him and state-owned bombs wasted.

If the Defense Ministry has not filed a suit (and it has not), if follows that victim and robber are at one.

In this absurd situation you can only rely on information obtained by our correspondents from military men at various levels.

The majority of our sources cite Vaziani, a Russian Army air base in Georgia, as the place from where a flight of SU attack aircraft took off for the bombing raid. The staging and refueling airfield was presumably Bombori airfield near Batumi. From there the flight went on to Chechnya.

Who commands the aircraft based in Georgia? The direct commander is Colonel General Fedor Reut, commander of the Russian Army Group in the Transcaucasus.

The answer to our question as to how Russian SUs could have overflown sovereign Georgia without any hindrance was very simple: Georgia's incumbent Defense Minister Nadibaidze, prior to his appointment, was Reut's deputy.

As was General Suriyan Beppayev, the well-known "arms merchant." (He was the go-between in the transfer of property from the Russian 100th Training Division to the Georgian Armed Forces).

It will be recalled that it was when Fedor Reut was commander of the Russian 7th Army in Yerevan that the first and the most powerful explosion occurred at the 7th Army's ammunition depot. It was not until later on that suspicions arose that the explosions "caused through negligence" were in fact designed to cover up a deficit. It was also Beppayev and Reut who ran into conflict with Division Commander Gladyshev, who protested the illegal arms trade.

In spite of the explosions and thefts and harassment by Gladyshev, Fedor Reut stayed afloat, was even promoted, and enjoys Grachev's personal favor.

According to our informants, the peace talks in Chechnya have led to a decline in the volume of arms trading.

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The provocation in Roshni-Chu, clearly aimed at rekindling hostilities, is an attempt to make up for "losses of opportunity."

Dudayev Envoys' Airport 'Tip-off' Viewed

MK0311104795 Moscow OBSHCHAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 44, 2-8 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by Vasiliy Simerin: "The Dudayevites Flew to Moscow From Mineralnyye Vody. For Some Reason the Special-Purpose Militia Group Was Looking for Them in Sleptsovsk"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian special services received a tip-off: On 24 October Chechen gunmen were planning to leave for Moscow from "Ingushetia" airport. (OBSHCHAYA GAZETA reported on the events in Sleptsovsk in its previous issue).

The reaction was quick. A special-purpose force landed at the airport, killed one and wounded six civilians, smashed commercial kiosks, but found no terrorists and left.

Meanwhile, two men were climbing the gangway of a plane in Mineralnyye Vody: Dudayev's closest associate and his bodyguard.

They were going to Moscow not to organize an explosion in the Metro or to poison the water supply, but for an arranged meeting with high-ranking Russian officials. The main subject of the meeting was to be the sharply aggravated situation in Chechnya. The Dudayevites were also unhappy over Doku Zavgayev's appointment as head of the National Salvation Government. According to them, "Moscow's actions are aimed at turning the Russian-Chechen conflict into an internal Chechen one. Only we must conduct the dialogue with the Kremlin, not some dubious personalities who, moreover, tarnished themselves in the past by betraying the interests of the Chechen people."

A Dudayevite, vested with very substantial powers, was to present these grievances to his patrons in Moscow.

But the Dudayev intelligence service reported that Ichkeria's envoys were going to be arrested when boarding the plane. It was at this point that a clever plan was devised. Russian special services were fed disinformation to the effect that the men would be flying via Sleptsovsk while the Dudayevites, to the accompaniment of automatic fire in a small Ingush village, were quietly preparing to leave Mineralnyye Vody.

The gunmen arrived in Moscow safely, met with some military leaders and Russian Government staffers, discussed controversial issues, and returned to Chechnya the following day.

They did not reach any particular mutual understanding during the talk and, according to them, were going to stay in Moscow a little longer, but a number of circumstances prevented that. At night the host of the apartment where the "guests" were staying received a phone call from an FSB [Federal Security Service] well-wisher advising them to return to Chechnya as soon as possible, because otherwise they would inevitably be arrested. The Dudayev men decided not to risk it and left.

In the very near future Chechen leaders may again need a personal meeting with some of the Russian leaders. Which airport, following a "tip-off," will the special-purpose troops storm now?

Troops Reduce Presence by 30 Percent

LD0311064095 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0300 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the Vladimir Zorin, first deputy head of the Territorial Directorate of the Federal Forces of the Chechen republic, since the beginning of talks there has been a 30 percent reduction in the numerical strength of the federal forces in Chechnya. Last week, the Russian units were withdrawn from the Nozhay-Yurt District.

Zorin: Inter-Chechen Dialogue Possible

LD0211230895 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2049 GMT 2 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Zagnoyko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 2 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — "The development of inter-Chechen dialogue is not the whim of one politician, even a far-sighted one. It is a genuine necessity, dictated by time's order, by serious and very dramatic clashes at talks for a peace settlement to the Chechen conflict," Vladimir Zorin, the first deputy head of the Territorial Directorate of the Federal Bodies of Executive Power of the Chechen Republic, at talks in Groznyy, said exclusively to ITAR-TASS.

"I am convinced that inter-Chechen dialogue is possible and necessary. In any case, the concluding settlement of the differences, which have built up in this region, must be completed in Chechnya itself," said Zorin.

Life genuinely requires that all leaders of public groups and parties sit at the negotiating table and work on a model for the future construction of the republic and its position, which would not cause objections of principles from either side and at the same time, it would allow

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the Chechen problem to be resolved. "There is more opportunity for such dialogue with the advent of new forces on the political stage in the republic," said Zorin.

Moving on to the talks about the package of military measures, and in particular the involvement in them of Chechen representatives Khozh-Akhmed Yarikhanov and Aslan Maskhadov, the deputy head of the Russian delegation said the existing members of the delegations were capable of handling these issues. But as far as political issues are concerned, Zorin said, "events might show that the delegations will need new people, politicians, and specialists in international law. I cannot rule out the enlistment of expert help, in the form of members of the Federation Council, members of law institutes and, of course, primarily, representatives of the republican government's national accord committee, meaning specifically Lecha Magomadov and Doku Zavgayev." Ruslan Khasbulatov should also be put on the list, Zorin thinks. "It is clear that Khasbulatov will turn up soon in Groznyy and join the negotiations."

"The final goal of this full-scale domestic political dialogue is to sign a final document between the federal authorities and representatives of the Chechen Republic," Zorin said. In my opinion, he said, the republic's status is the biggest bone of contention at the never-ending discussions. For as long as we put off a final solution to the status question, it will keep on arising at the meetings.

This is why, he continued, I think it would be useful for all participants in the talks to draw up general principles for future relations between the Chechen Republic and the federal center. Its official name would be of secondary importance. It could, for example, be called "The Main Principles for a Future Treaty" or anything else, but in any event it should include a clearly-defined framework, beyond which nobody involved in the negotiations could go. This would also be irrespective of the election results, according to Zorin.

At the same time, he stressed, this would remove the natural fears of some talks participants that a future government might not take their interests into account when concluding a final document. "An interim agreement on the road to a final treaty would provide additional guarantees for everyone involved in the discussions."

Yarikhanov: Commanders Not 'Separatist'

LD0311094995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0857 GMT 3 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Nikolay Zagnoyko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 3 Nov [ITAR-TASS] — "Not a single field commander of our armed formations has ever wanted to enter into separate talks with the federal troops," this correspondent has been told by Khozh-Akhmed Yarikhanov, head of Dudayev's delegation to the talks on a peaceful settlement of the Chechen conflict.

"Attempts to split our movement have been made before, without success," he noted. "Naturally, individual field commanders in the front line had contacts with the command of the Russian troops. However, these relations are governed by purely tactical considerations and have nothing in common with any separatist drive."

Lobov, Zavgayev Powers To Coexist

LD0211144495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1425 GMT 2 Nov 95

[By Tamara Zamyatina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 2 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian presidential envoy to Chechenya Oleg Lobov will remain coordinator of federal institutions in Chechnya, Russian Security Council Deputy Secretary Vladimir Rubanov told ITAR-TASS today.

Asked whether Lobov's powers will change with the coming of Doku Zavgayev in the post of Chechnya's government chairman, Rubanov said Lobov would continue to mediate contacts of Chechnya's executive authorities with the federal centre.

Zavgayev has been placed in the premier post by a decree of the latest meeting of the Chechen Supreme Council.

Lobov Arrives To Oversee Construction

LD0211161995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1526 GMT 2 Nov 95

[By Tamara Zamyatina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 2 (ITAR-TASS) — The Russian president's envoy to Chechnya Oleg Lobov came to Groznyy today to oversee the preparation of the city for the winter, accommodation of federal troops and payment of the delayed wage to public servants and constructors.

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Russian Security Council Deputy Secretary Vladimir Rubanov told ITAR-TASS that Lobov had successfully pressed for changes in the timetable of funding the construction of public amenities in Chechnya and of compensations for war-destroyed housing.

The federal budget allocates for these programmes a monthly one and a half million roubles, Rubanov said.

R1.4 Trillion Allocated for 'Revival'

LD0211205395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1657 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 2 (INTERFAX) — The federal government is to earmark 1.4 trillion rubles [R] ($311 million) for the economic and social revival of Chechnya in November, deputy chairman of the state commission for Chechen reconstruction Petr Surov told a commission session Thursday.

The figure for last month was 1.375 trillion rubles.

Surov added that the 7.4 trillion of budget spending on Chechnya provided for the whole year will be exhausted in November and the commission will have to ask the cabinet for additional funding in December.

Surov thanked Russian commercial banks that credited reconstruction operations for their decision to postpone the repayment of the 800 billion rubles lent to the government from November to next January. "That was a patriotic step," he said.

He criticized the Federal Migration Service and the Agriculture and Food Ministry for the improper use of resources given to them for reconstruction operations in Chechnya and reminded their leadership of their responsibility to fulfilling commission instructions.

Voronezh Migration Law Said To Discriminate Russians

MM0211192795 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Oct 95 p 10

[Report by Gennadiy Litvintsev: "Transparent Border. But Who Will Come to Us With the Money..."]

[FBIS Translated Text] Voronezh — Not long ago five young Azerbaijanis turned up in the village of Shestakovo, Bobrovskiy Rayon. They explained to the locals that they were fleeing the war and conscription into active service. The locals believed the fugitives and gave them shelter. But the latter did not take up agricultural work. They immediately settled into the cabs of trucks that appeared from goodness knows where and busied themselves with dubious matters of an unknown nature. It was soon apparent what they were doing. Traces of nocturnal killings and robberies on the Rostov-Moscow highway brought the police to Shestakovo. The "pacifists" from the Caucasus were found to be in possession of an entire military arsenal. Apparently the newcomers had the blood of several truckers on their hands.

Similar instances (unfortunately, there have been many in recent years) have of course severely tested Voronezh people's hospitable and trusting nature. Their reserves of patience are all but exhausted. There was the Budennovsk tragedy as well. It is not surprising that newcomers, particularly those of a characteristic appearance, are beginning to be regarded with suspicion.

The number of refugees and displaced persons who have stayed in Voronezh Oblast is now around 100,000.

"Naturally we sympathize with these people, our compatriots above all," oblast duma leader Ivan Shabanov said. "But because of the 'transparency' of Russia's present borders, criminals, arms dealers, and drug traffickers have started entering the oblast unimpeded. The uncontrollable process of the 'resettlement of peoples' is aggravating unemployment, generating a criminal atmosphere, and threatening to destroy the fragile system of social protection for the population. That is why migration processes need to be regulated, and this is best done on a proper legal basis."

The law "On Regulating the Migration Process" recently adopted by the Voronezh Oblast Duma is virtually the first of its kind in the Russian Federation. And it has been introduced ahead of the corresponding federal legislation. Although the latter will have a different name — "On the right of Russian Federation citizens to freedom of movement and choice of place of residence and domicile inside the Russian Federation." Do you sense any difference? But the federal law, formally adopted back in June 1993, is inoperative, and local enactments are blooming in the field of law.

In accordance with the Voronezh law, four categories of arrivals are required to register — Russian Federation citizens, foreign citizens, citizens of the former USSR, and stateless persons. People on business and refugees from Chechnya, economic migrants from the North and Far East, and displaced persons from the CIS countries, plus entrepreneurs and vagrants, are lumped together under the term "citizens." Each is required to pay a rather large amount of money for each day's stay in the oblast. But what do visiting Russian businessmen from other oblasts and guests from CIS countries have to do with the concept of the migration process?

Even larger sums — about 300 minimum monthly salaries — have to be paid by those who decided to settle permanently and acquire some housing. No

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exception is made for Russians forced to return from CIS countries. Moreover, quotas have been established for the admission of migrants, equal to 0.5 percent of the number of people in the relevant population centers. In other words, one newcomer per 200 long-term residents. And this despite the fact that the population of Voronezh Oblast is falling and returnees are sent, as a rule, to sparsely populated localities, where from household to household sometimes you will count fewer than 20 old people. Now is this not absurd?

"The quotas create insurmountable barriers for us," the head of one of the migrant organizations said. "With the financial support of the Federal Migration Service we are organizing our own production operations and building housing around them. Obviously, only by concentrating forces is it possible to survive and make something durable. Now the projected programs for settling migrants are being jeopardized by the local law."

One can accept that the law is the product of objective circumstances: The oblast is unable to feed all new arrivals and provide them with housing and work. But what is needed is a differentiated approach. Russians returning from the far corners of the former USSR are taking any work, are organizing their own production operations, and are prepared to develop and are already developing vacant land. They are arriving as working people, not as parasites. In some cases they have been fleeced down to their last penny — why levy charges on them on Russian soil? Taxes of millions of rubles do not stop people like the "businessmen" from Shestakovo — they are capable of buying any housing at any price and paying any bribe. So we are opening the door barely a crack to honest working people, while flinging it open wide to swindlers and rogues. Is that right?

Yeltsin Greets People of Udmurtia on National Day

LD0211163195 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in English 1200 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russia's President Boris Yeltsin has sent a message of greetings to the residents of Udmurtia on republic's day. Udmurtia, an autonomy within the Russian Federation, is situated in the Volga River basin.

In his message Boris Yeltsin says: "Both the Udmurts and the Russians and also other nationalities residing in Udmurtia have done much to develop their homeland." President Yeltsin stressed that interethnic cooperation should be further consolidated to resolve the current complicated social and economic problems and to advance towards greater democracy.

'Uralmash' Flotation, Privatization Process Complete

MM0211202195 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Nov 95 p 3

[Aleksey Vladykin feature incorporating Russian Federation Government Directive No. 1426, signed by Premier Chernomyrdin in Moscow on 13 October, and commentary by Dmitriy Sergeyev, chairman of the Sverdlovsk Oblast Property Fund, under the general headline: "'Uralmash' Shares at High"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The proposal from the Russian State Committee for the Management of State Property [GKI] and the Russian Federation Committee for Machine Building to privatize the Urals Heavy Machine-Building Plant named for Sergo Ordzhonikidze, transforming it into an open-type joint-stock company, as implemented by the Sverdlovsk Oblast Committee for the Management of State Property in 1992, is hereby agreed to.

[Signed] V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government

Moscow, 13 October 1995
No. 1426

Commentary by Dmitriy Sergeyev, Chairman of the Sverdlovsk Oblast Property Fund

Yekaterinburg — We need to make it clear straightaway that the "Uralmash" Joint-Stock Company was floated back in 1992. This work was handled by the Sverdlovsk Oblast Committee for the Management of State Property. It all went normally. There was a closed subscription for the shares under flotation option one. Then there was the all-Russia check auction, at which 30 percent of the shares were sold. Of these, 5 percent were sold at open investment auctions.

But arbitration hearings were held concurrently with the denationalization processes. These were linked to the fate of the property of the "Spetstekhnika" Plant Joint-Stock Company — a former small-scale "Uralmash" facility that used to produce military output. This difficult collision arose in 1994, when production ended due to a lack of state orders. At the same time, a number of leaders believed that the "Spetstekhnika" property had been illegally included in "Uralmash's" incorporation capital, since, under normative documents, the privatization of defense enterprises is carried out at the government's decision. Lawsuits began. But the GKI won all the hearings, thereby confirming the legality of the "Uralmash" flotation. And the directive adopted by the Russian Federation Government brings the argument over "Uralmash" to an end once and for all.

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The state currently holds 25 percent of "Uralmash" shares. Of these, 10 percent are held by the enterprise workers' flotation fund and another 10 percent are being sold at the all-Russian specialized money auction that began 18 October. The last 5 percent is a reserve held by "Spetstekhnika." It should be said that there is considerable interest in the "Uralmash" shares — they are selling at 15,000 rubles [R] in the market, as opposed to their face value of R500. And their price is rising.

Economic Issues

Yeltsin Signs Decree on Sale of Federal Shareholdings

LD0211213995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1404 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 2 November (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin today signed a decree "On Timescales for Sale of Shares Under Federal Ownership and Mortgaged in 1995." This is the full text of the decree, which was forwarded to ITAR-TASS by the head of state's press office.

"To increase the efficiency of the mechanism for mortgaging shares under federal ownership, I decree:

"1. That the right to sell federally-owned shares mortgaged in the procedure stipulated in Decree of the President of the Russian Federation No. 889 dated 31 August 1995 (Compendium of 1995 Russian Federation Legislation No 36, page 3527) shall accrue to commission members from 1 September 1996.

"2. To rule null and void the second sentence of clause 1 of the mandatory conditions of the Commission Treaty endorsed in Decree of the President of the Russian Federation No. 889 dated 31 August 1995 (annex 3).

"3. That this decree shall enter into force on the day of its publication."

The president's press office also passed to ITAR-TASS a commentary, which says: "The decree sets the date from which sale can begin of federal shareholdings that have been mortgaged: 1 September 1996. This means that these shares cannot be sold off before that date. In the president's opinion, this gives enough time for the mortgaging mechanism to demonstrate its effectiveness."

Chernomyrdin Endorses Fund for 'Deceived Depositors'

LD0211210295 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1609 GMT 2 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 2 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has approved a draft aid plan for deceived depositors in finance companies, a source in the government offices told ITAR-TASS.

The state budgets for this and next year make no provision for payouts to people who put their money in finance companies that go broke, the source said. Despite this, the plan as endorsed by the head of government allows for a public and state compensation fund to be set up for deceived depositors. The fund's resources will come from the balance-sheet assets, including those sequestered, of companies involved in financial swindles. Organizations formed by depositors who lost their savings in various financial "pyramids" will also take part in this work, the source said.

According to the federal securities commission, 883 financial pyramid companies unlicensed by the Central Bank have been operating in Russia recently. About 30 million people have lost nearly 2,000 billion rubles, the commission calculates.

Yasin, Livshits Cited on Economic Trends, Priorities

MM0311114295 Moscow FINANSOVYYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by Yevgeniya Pismennaya: "Reforms Are Becoming a Minefield for the Government" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] Economics Minister Yevgeniy Yasin has spoken about the progress of economic reforms in the country in the following metaphorical terms: "You feel as if you are in a minefield. The most important thing for the government is not to let go of the mine-detector."

At the latest session of Moscow's Finance Club, Economics Minister Yevgeniy Yasin and the president's aide on economic questions, Aleksandr Livshits, briefly described the trends in Russia's economic policy.

The most dreadful thing at the present time, in the economics minister's opinion, is the gap created as a result of the discrepancy between the dynamics of the growth of prices and the currency rate. It is clear here that the currency band will be widened.

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According to Aleksandr Livshits, the government now has around 10 scenarios for the further development of the situation. November will be the month for making a final decision. The government's inflation expectations in the immediate term are 4.8-5 percent. October, this year's most difficult month, according to Yevgeniy Yasin, is now behind us. The last channel obstructing stabilization is now being blocked off — the government has gotten down in earnest to containing the prices of natural monopolies.

The minister described the high interest rates on state securities as the main problem in the securities market. This reduces the amount of activity involving transactions in other securities and adversely affects the profitability of extending credit to trade. The government deems it essential to reduce the return on state securities.

From the Economics Ministry's standpoint, highly effective investment is essential to sustain the economy. We must place our main emphasis on it. Yevgeniy Yasin acknowledged that this year's investment programs have foundered and that they are being financed by the residual principle. The onset of a financial crisis in the Pension Fund has been officially recognized. The government is currently trying to resolve this problem.

Regarding the inflation figure built into next year's budget, Yevgeniy Yasin confidently stated that government concessions here could only be 1.5-1.7 percent at maximum. Higher inflation is not justified by any calculations. Admittedly, he did stipulate here that the state must always hold at least 10-15 percent of the total revenue in the budget reserve. Therefore, based solely on "good housekeeping considerations," the future budget should be based on the lowest inflation figure from the proposed projections.

The president's aide on economic questions gave an assurance that the government has adopted the following iron rule as the basis for its action — "not a single provocative decision in future" — because the adverse consequences appear, as a rule, far more quickly than the anticipated beneficial ones.

The economics minister is sure that the government will be able to maintain all the positive trends in the financial sphere and control the situation in the credit and securities markets.

Aleksandr Livshits stressed that resistance to the stabilization of the economy carried out by the state is increasing over time. These are the conditions in which the country's economic policy is being shaped. In Aleksandr Livshits' opinion, Russia will never manage to neutralize or subordinate the forces hostile to reforms. But as our government is "weak," it has to be "clever and resourceful." Whether the government will "outwit" the forces opposing it is a question that only time will answer.

Number of 'Jobless' in Russia Tops 9.1 Million

LD0211131395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1233 GMT 2 Nov 95

[By Lilia Kuznetsova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 2 (ITAR-TASS) — The total number of jobless in Russia now reached 9.1 million people or 12.5 percent of economically active population, the Federal Employment Service (FES) reported here on Thursday [2 November].

According to FES press secretary Irina Milkhina, this number includes 2.1 million registered unemployed people as well as people working part-time or people having no job but actively looking for it on their own or with assistance from the employment service.

She told ITAR-TASS that 3.7 million job-seekers came to the employment service since the start of the year. Over 50 percent of them are women. Young people making up 37 percent of the total number of the service's customers, face a tough problem of finding jobs.

As for unemployment growth rates, Milkhina claimed that they are not so high, as specialists forecast at the start of the year. The number of registered jobless people increased by 30 percent in the country over the past nine months.

However, unemployment growth rates differ much between regions. They rose 200 percent in Ingushetia, more than 150 percent in North Ossetia and nearly 150 percent in the Chita and Smolensk regions.

Boeing Questioned on $1.5 Billion Loan Stance

964E0172A Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 20 Oct 95 p 9

[Article by Leonid Zavarskiy and Nikolay Zubov: "Kostya Zolotuskiy Has Given the Press a Dressing-Down: Boeing Against the Il-96M/T Project"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to tradition, many of the conflicts that arise in the course of the activity of major Western companies on the Russian market, specifically, an infringement of their interests directly or indirectly connected with their work in Russia, are, in fact, simply not commented on by company spokesmen, even if they are written about in the press. But the news

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conference yesterday in Moscow of Kostya Zolotuskiy, sales director of the Boeing Commercial Airplane Group in Europe, demonstrated a new approach to this range of issues. The slight change in the traditional position has to do with the noisy row surrounding the well-known $1.5 billion loan of the U.S. Ex-Im Bank for the manufacture of 20 Il-96M/T aircraft with PW-2037 Pratt & Whitney engines, a notable role in which was performed by Boeing, which attempted to block the deal. Kostya Zolotuskiy attempted to squelch the undesirable repercussions for Boeing caused by publications on this conflict in the Russian press.

He decided to do so in highly original fashion, accusing the Russian news media of a display of discourtesy in the preparation of publications on the fate of the loan. The discourtesy consisted, in Zolotuskiy's opinion, of virtually none of the journalists coordinating their texts with Boeing, which entailed damage to the reputation of the corporation in Russia. In polite, but emphatic, form he advised the Russian news media to first consult with the corporation when preparing material connected with Boeing. It is interesting that the corporation has made no such demands of American journalists, although they have written more about the conflict than their Russian colleagues. This double standard was explained to our KOMMERSANT correspondent by one Western journalist, who wished to remain anonymous, by the fact that Boeing is reluctant to come into conflict with the American news media since this would be dangerous. The Russian media, on the other hand, are, possibly, seen as something secondary, and no particular proprieties are necessary in this case.

Aeroflot on the Il-96M/T Project

A spokesman for the airline, who wished to remain anonymous, declared that work is being performed "at the assembly jigs of the Voronezh Aviation Plant." According to him, the Pratt & Whitney PW-2037 is being installed and mounted on the aircraft's cargo models (the Il-96T), which are under assembly. According to the plan, Aeroflot will acquire "initially several cargo planes and then passenger aircraft also." He announced that the final conclusions regarding the loan could be drawn after the meeting of the U.S. Ex-Im Bank Board of Directors expected on 20 October.

As regards Boeing's position on the fact of the Ex-Im Bank allocating the credit, Zolotuskiy said that the mere possibility of this deal "has, to put it mildly, caused very great concern." According to him, the American legal system is constructed on "formation of precedent," which—in the form of American credit being granted Russian aviation industry for the first time—could give rise to the desire of other companies to avail themselves of it. Boeing is opposed to "the transfer of American taxpayers' money to foreign competitors." The sales director sketched the following hypothetical situation: General Electric goes to the Ex-Im Bank and solicits credit for the supply of 80 engines for Airbus Industrie. Were the deal to go through, this would be a direct blow to the interests of Boeing and of palpable benefit to a competitor. Zolotuskiy announced that the corporation had appealed to President Clinton with the demand for assurances that the Ex-Im Bank's Il-96M/T project deal would not be the rule but a sole exception. According to him, such assurances have been obtained. Not embarrassed by the patent contradiction, Zolotuskiy declared that Boeing's role in this entire business had been strongly exaggerated. He also announced that he knew nothing about Boeing, in exchange for its consent to this deal, having insisted on compensation in the form of the duty-free importation into Russia of the corporation's leasing aircraft for a term of up to seven years (although not only the Russian but also the American press, THE JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, on 18 October, particularly, has written about this).

Zolotuskiy was indignant that a "political significance" was being imparted to Boeing's activity in Russia and rejected the very idea that the corporation was "pushing" its product in Russia. He declared that the purchase of Boeing aircraft by airlines of Russia and the CIS was their "personal concern and dictated by the requirements of the market." But he confirmed that the acquisition of Russian air-worthiness certificates for his aircraft had been paid for in full by Boeing. In world practice, however, expenditure entailed in the acquisition of national certification of imported aviation equipment is paid for by its client.

Western Media on the Boeing-Ilyushin Design Office Conflict

The big names of the participants (Boeing, the Ilyushin Design Office, Pratt & Whitney) and the proportions of the deal ($1.5 billion), multiplied by the efforts of the PR staff, initially made the conflict front-page news worldwide. But quite soon interest in it on the part of nonspecialist publications began to fade, but interest on the part of specialized publications grew.

The attitude toward both the agreements between the Ilyushin Design Office and Pratt & Whitney and the objections on the part of Boeing depended on many factors: the West European (particularly German and French) media (in the period when close attention was still being paid to the event, at least) were practically unanimous in their support of the viewpoint of the Russian-American tandem, which was that it is inappropriate for Boeing representatives to stigmatize a practice

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that has been actively supported by Boeing itself. This support is undoubtedly connected with the fact that the American Ex-Im's financing of the project could perfectly well set a precedent for other similar projects, an analogous P & W and Airbus tandem, for example. The British media, on the other hand, commented on the event with almost unconcealed dislike. Whether this had to do with the fact that Rolls Royce had been prepared to take P & W's place or that it was merely a question of the traditionally guarded attitude toward of the British toward Russia, it is hard to say. Nonetheless, a report on the Il/P & W agreement in London's EVENING STANDARD, which quoted in relative detail Norm Augustine, president of the American Lockheed Martin Corporation, on Western technology's superiority to Russian technology, was typical. Far more equivocal was the response of the American media, which switched quite rapidly from the question of Boeing's complaints about the project proper to one of far more interest to them: Could Clinton, who actively welcomed the Il-96M's arrival at America's Andrews Air Force Base in November 1994, resist the pressure of Boeing—a major American exporter. "As a star of America's exports, Boeing undoubtedly claims a special attitude on the part of the administration," an influential American journal maintained. But it seems that after the Russian side has offered Boeing itself a deal, the attitude toward the complaints of the American aviation giant has become, frankly, cool.

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International Affairs

Talks With G-7 on Financing Chernobyl Shutdown Fail

AU0211181595 Paris AFP in English 1747 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Nov 2 (AFP) — Negotiations between the Group of Seven industrialized countries and Ukraine on shutting down the Chernobyl nuclear power plant ended in failure Thursday [2 November], a western source close to the talks said.

"The negotiations were halted this evening. There was a lot of progress but basic disagreements remain on the time line and the financing," the source told AFP.

"Diplomatic consultations will continue, and negotiations will resume at the end of the month on the political level, still with the goal of reaching an accord before the end of the year," he added.

The G-7 had offered a financing package worth 2.25 billion dollars, and sources had earlier voiced optimism that an accord was near.

Chernobyl was the site of the world's worst civilian nuclear disaster on April 26, 1986, when one of the four reactors at the plant in northern Ukraine exploded, sending a radioactive cloud over vast parts of northern Europe.

Despite the accident, two of the other reactors have continued to operate, one of which however was temporarily turned off last week following a malfunction during a fuel-loading operation.

The fourth reactor has been shut down since a fire in 1991.

'Refunding Plan' for Shut-Down Viewed

LD0211203095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1815 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, November 2 (Interfax - Ukraine) — The outcome of the talks in Kiev with G-7 experts on the shut-down of the Chernobyl NPP [nuclear power plant] may be the endorsement of the procedure of refunding Ukraine's spendings.

The ultimate refunding plan, which has been tentatively drawn up by the sides, provides for the granting by the West of credits to the tune of US$1800 million and another US$450 million in the form of non-repayable grants, Interfax - Ukraine was told at the press center of Ukraine's Ministry of Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety. Ukraine's spendings on the shut-down of the Chernobyl NPP have been estimated at $900 million.

Thus, the aggregate spendings involved in the closing of the Chernobyl NPP have been set at US$3200 million, provided this version is endorsed.

In spring this year, when the Ukrainian leaders announced their intention to shut down the Chernobyl NPP before the year of 2000, they appraised the spendings involved in the effort at $4000 million.

As has been learnt, the negotiations scheduled to end at 13:00 [1000 GMT] on Thursday [2 November] will continue and may be wound up on Friday. The sides have to complete the discussion of the text of the memorandum on mutual understanding.

The Memorandum on mutual understanding between Ukraine, G-7 member states and European Commissions is due to be signed during the forthcoming visit to Ukraine of Canadian Secretary for Environmental Issues Sheila Kopf.

The sides have not discussed all issues so far, reporters were told by Volodymyr Martyniuk, Press-Center Chief of the Ukrainian Environment and Nuclear Safety Ministry. "The talks have a tough going", he added.

According to V.Martyniuk, Ukraine insists that the memorandum should contain a clear-cut procedure for funding the Chernobyl shut-down programme. The paper shall specify each country, the size of the funds, the term and the bank authorized to transfer the funds, he specified.

"These talks are of paramount importance to us, since this is the last opportunity to discuss all details before the signing of the memorandum," Martyniuk said.

He quoted the Head of the Ukrainian delegation to the talks, Environment Minister Yuriy Kostenko, as saying that understanding had been reached on the division of the funds in subsidies and other payments.

The subsidies, he said, will be spent to fund "unprofitable activities", among which he listed the maintenance in a proper condition of the cover (sarcophagus) over the damaged fourth power unit of the Charnobyl NPP as well as the construction of storages for nuclear fuel wastes.

Ukraine, Russia's Gazprom Reach Agreement on Gas

LD0211203795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1507 GMT 2 Nov 95

["Gazprom To Charge More For Gas Exported Across Ukraine" — "INTERFAX-UKRAINE" headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, Nov 2 (Interfax-Ukraine) — A protocol has been signed at the end of

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negotiations between the Ukrainian government and Russia's gas giant Gazprom.

As Interfax has learned from a well-placed source, in line with the protocol, Gazprom is to supply Ukraine next year with up to 50 billion cubic meters of gas at a price of 80 dollars per 1000 cubic meters.

The cost of Russian gas, shipped to the west across Ukraine, will be raised from $1.73 to $1.75 per 1000 square cubic meters of gas, for every 100 kilometers it is transported.

As partial compensation for transit, Gazprom is to supply 6 billion cubic meters of gas to Ukraine with the rest of the transit bill to be footed by some of Gazprom's Ukrainian clients. These will be selected at government level after they provide appropriate guarantees.

The importers of Russian gas to Ukraine include Sodruzhestvo, Praveks, RUNO, Ukrzarubezhneftegaz, and Intergaz.

Gazprom's delegation was led by the company's president Ram Vyakhirev.

UNA Claims Russian Banks Will Buy Out Joint Corporations

WS0311100895 Lvov INFOBANK in English 0815 GMT 3 Nov 95

[From the "News Service" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Ukrainian National Assembly [UNA] has released a statement in which it claims that in October the Ukrainian government gave Russia a packet of proposals regarding the formation of 32 Ukrainian-Russian corporations (industrial-financial groups — IFG's) in various sectors of industry. Seven of these are to be formed as early as 1996 and another 19 may be formed in 1997. According to UNA's estimates, each of these IFGs should have assets equivalent to $1 billion or more. UNA predicts that the first emission of stocks issued by these IFGs will be divided up by their founders and the second and third emissions will be bought out by Russian banks.

Last Group of Peacekeepers in Bosnia Replaced

LD0311102695 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The last group of servicemen assigned to the Ukrainian battalion within the UN peacekeeping forces flew from Dnepropetrovsk to Sarajevo. Over the last week, more than 500 soldiers and officers were dispatched to former Yugoslavia for the next six months to replace the Ukrainian blue helmets currently operating there. They will escort humanitarian cargoes, provide medical aid to the population and guard checkpoints between the warring sides.

Crimea Seeks Council of Europe Help

LD0211220395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1842 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SIMFEROPOL, Nov 2 (Interfax - Ukraine) — The Crimean parliament has drawn the attention of the Council of Europe to the unresolved matter of the Crimea's political and legal status.

A message from the Crimean parliament approved Thursday attributes the need to resolve the matter to Ukraine's admission to the Council of Europe.

"Ukraine can become a deserving and full member of the Council of Europe, only if it observes the norms and principles of international law," the message says.

The parliament also reports the approval of the new Crimean constitution and stressed its goodwill in improving relations with Ukraine. The new constitution does not contradict Ukrainian legislation, the message stresses.

National Affairs

Parliament Opposes Spending on Nuclear Disarmament

LD0211220295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1842 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, Nov 2 (Interfax-Ukraine) — The Ukrainian parliament will object to the introduction of spending on nuclear disarmament in the 1996 budget expenditure, Vladimir Mukhin, head of the parliamentary Defense and State Security Commission, told Interfax-Ukraine Thursday.

It is not that the parliament opposes disarmament, it is just that there is no money for it, he said.

In this connection Mukhin believes that nuclear disarmament may be suspended from the beginning of 1996 if western countries "do not fulfill their financial commitments to Ukraine."

The United States provides assistance for the nuclear disarmament of Ukraine. Under the Nunn-Lugar program, Ukraine is to receive $350 million.

Parliament Passes Law on Recall of People's Deputies

LD0211181795 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1310 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev [no date as received] — On 2 November the Ukrainian Supreme Council passed a

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resolution "On the procedure for implementation of the law 'on recalling people's deputies of Ukraine'" with 232 out of the 339 deputies voting in favor, 11 against, and 24 abstaining [figures as received].

When the deputies debated and approved this law on 19 October they did not pass a resolution on its implementation. Under the law, the reasons for recalling deputies could be: A refusal on the part of a deputy to work in the Supreme Council on a professional basis; using a deputy's authority for personal mercenary purposes; systematic violation by a deputy of ethical and moral rules; the incompatibility of a deputy's actions with the election campaign; and concealment of revenues and submitting inaccurate information about them to the declaration of revenues. According to the law, the final decision on recalling a deputy is to be taken by the Central Electoral Commission and whenever the issues are contentious — by the Supreme Council of Ukraine.

Communist Party's Symonenko: Main Task To Regain Power

LD0211231695 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev [no date as received] — In his speech at a gala meeting devoted to the 78th anniversary of the October revolution, Petro Symonenko, the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine [CPU], called on the working people to unite in the struggle for their interests. He said the working people should become aware that their main task is to regain political power. According to the first secretary of the CPU, left-wing parties should play a leading role in these processes.

Symonenko mentioned as an example the events of 1917, when 350,000 Bolsheviks managed to carry out the revolution in a country with a population of 170 million. He said the duty of every communist is to explain to the work force the necessity of carrying out the struggle.

Ivan Chyzh, the chairman of the political council of the Socialist Party of Ukraine, said the future of the state belongs to "democratic socialism."

He conveyed holiday greetings from Oleksandr Moroz, the chairman of the Socialist Party of Ukraine, chairman of the Supreme Council of Ukraine, who was expected to attend the sitting. Chyzh said Moroz was not present "due to objective circumstances — the need for him to preside over the parliament session."

Deputy Prime Minister Arrives in Crimea

LD0211162795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1524 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SIMFEROPOL, November 2 (Itar-Tass) — Ukrainian Vice-Prime-Minister Vasiliy Durdinets has arrived in the Crimea today. He said that the purpose of his visit was to see for himself whether a resolution of the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers adopted on August 24 " On measures for the solution of legal, political, social, economic and ethnic problems in the autonomous republic of the Crimea " was being fulfilled.

The Ukrainian Vice-Premier noted that he disagreed with the leader of the "Crimean Republican Party", former chairman of the Crimean parliament, Sergei Tsekov, who had described this resolution as Ukraine's attempt to set its strategic allies - the Crimean Tatars - at loggerheads with the rest of the Crimean population and establish an ethnic hierarchy in the Crimea.

Durdinets declared that the resolution passed by the Ukrainian Cabinet was aimed at the stabilisation of economic, social, political and criminal situation in the Crimea. Durdinets said that Ukraine has no intention to divide the people into "strategic and non-strategic," adding that regardless of financial costs, the resolution would be put through.

The Ukrainian Vice-Premier intends to make a tour of the Crimea, attend a session of the Crimean government on Friday and give a news conference for journalists.

Crimean Parliament Leadership Split Over New Constitution

LD0211211495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1615 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SIMFEROPOL, Nov 2 (Interfax - Ukraine) — The adoption of Crimea's new Constitution last Wednesday is a "display of consolidation of forces in the Crimean parliament," according to Crimean Parliamentary Chairman Yevheniy Suprunyuk.

The Supreme Soviet of Crimea had adopted the autonomy's new Constitution, subject to approval by the Ukrainian parliament.

Suprunyuk regretted that deputies had rejected his version of article 114 which guaranteed deported peoples' right to representation in the Crimean parliament and local self-government bodies.

"I believe not everything has been lost so far. It is necessary to sit down at the negotiating table with representatives of the deported peoples and find mutually acceptable solutions," he said.

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The Constitution adopted cannot promote a stabler situation in Crimea, Crimean Deputy Parliamentary Chairman Refat Chubarov told Interfax - Ukraine as he expressed the views of his Crimean Tatar faction Kurultay.

"We went towards our colleagues as much as we could and insisted on a mutually acceptable decision on the two articles. However, the interests of Crimean Tatars were neglected while adopting the Constitution," he added.

Chubarov recalled that Kurultay had proposed an article to guarantee an equal status to Crimea's three official languages: Crimean Tatar, Ukrainian and Russian.

Another deputy chairman of the Crimean Supreme Soviet, co-chairman of the Crimean Constitutional Commission Anushevan Danelian said the adopted Constitution fully conforms to international legal standards and practices.

"The Crimean Constitutional Commission and a delegation of the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine achieved the desired goal, but in general I am not too satisfied with article 114," he told Interfax - Ukraine.

According to Danelian, deported peoples should enjoy guaranteed representation in state bodies. However, certain representation mechanisms may be found even within the present version of the article, he added.

New Constitution Evokes Mixed Reaction

LD0211151395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1447 GMT 2 Nov 95

[By Lev Ryabchikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SIMFEROPOL, November 2 (Itar-Tass) — The Crimean parliament on Wednesday [1 November] voted by a 74-1 majority in favour of adopting a new Constitution of Ukraine's Autonomy upon its second article-by-article discussion, pending its approval by the Ukrainian parliament in Kiev.

The procedure in Kiev is likely to be far from simple because an entire range of provisions in the Constitution has not been agreed with the Ukrainian parliament's working group headed by Dmitro Stepanyuk.

Stepanyuk told Ukrinform that "today, the parliament of Crimea made a mistake in approving the Constitution as a whole." He explained that the last edition of the Crimean Constitution contained many discrepancies.

Stepanyuk pointed to a divergence between Ukrainian and Crimean legislation: Ukraine appoints its judiciary, and Crimea wants to elect its own. Crimea is also expected to take the Ukrainian President's opinion into account when appointing the Prime Minister of the Crimean government. Moreover, the Crimean parliament voted in favour of giving only Russian the status of a state language, describing the Crimean Tatar and Ukrainian languages as "official." It also turned down the Kurultai faction amendments concerning the representation of the deported peoples in the parliament and local government bodies. As a result, the Kurultai faction refused to take part in the voting on the Constitution of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea as a whole, and its member Enver Kurtiyev said he would go on an indefinite political hunger strike.

In contrast to Stepanyuk, leader of the party of Economic Revival of Crimea Vladimir Shevyev insisted that the new Constitution of Crimea was in full accord with the recommendations issued by the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe. He admitted however that "it does not fully meet the wishes of Ukrainian authorities," adding that it was impossible to agree on such a document of a word-to-word basis. He said Crimean parliament members should go to Kiev without delay to convince the Ukrainian parliamentarians of the advisability of every article of the new Constitution.

"Allegations that we have adopted a pro-Ukraine Constitution are absolutely groundless. Just on the contrary, it is pro-Crimean," deputy speaker of the Crimean parliament Anushavan Danelyan. "It grants us powers which we never had before, particularly in the economic sphere," he said.

Danelyan said that taking guidance from its new fundamental law Crimea would be able to independently build its relations with Russia.

Chairman of Crimea's Russian party Sergey Shuvaynikov said that regardless of whether or not the Ukrainian parliament approved the Crimean Constitution, it was necessary to hold early new elections to the parliament to enable new political forces to join the republic's leadership in its efforts to "fill the Constitution with real substance that would open the way to a better life for the Crimeans."

Economic Issues

Russia 'Reluctant' To Return Money From Former USSR Bank

LD0211135095 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0940 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — According to various estimates the amount of hard currency taken abroad every year is between $4 and $5 million, Deputy Economy Minister Leonid Minin said at a Supreme Council session on 2 November.

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He stressed that the "directors of Russia's Foreign Economic Bank were reluctant to hold talks on returning to Ukraine hard currency that was held in accounts of the Foreign Economic Bank of the former USSR." At the same time Minin said that middlemen are appearing in Ukraine who are prepared to return 50 percent of the hard currency to Ukraine.

Parliament Ratifies EBRD $14.8 Million Credit Agreement

LD0211174995 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1310 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev [no date as received] — On 2 November, the Ukrainian Supreme Council ratified a credit agreement between Ukraine and the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development [EBRD] to develop a project on the reconstruction the fruit and vegetable market in Kiev (out of a total of 359 deputies, 203 voted in favor, 64 against, and 24 abstained) [figures as received]. The agreement was signed on 19 January 1995 during a visit to Ukraine by EBRD President Jacques de Larosiere. Under the terms of the credit agreement, the EBRD will offer Ukraine $14.8 million in credits for a 12-year period at the London Inter-bank Offered Rate plus one percent deferred for three years.

The Finance Ministry will receive the credit on Ukraine's behalf and will relend it to at least 65 clients, in particular, the Kiev wholesale market company, retail stores, fruit and vegetable warehouses, and agricultural producers.

If the money is not used for its intended purpose the funding of the project will be suspended immediately and the amounts received will be returned to the EBRD.

Prior to today's ratification, the Supreme Council had rejected the credit agreement on three occasions as a result of which the credit agreement's period of validity expired and Ukraine had to make payment commissions that have so far amounted to $87,000.

Kiev Suspends Privatization in Oil, Gas Industry

LD0211132095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1221 GMT 2 Nov 95

[By Raysa Stetsyura]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, November 2 (Itar-Tass) — The Ukrainian parliament suspended privatisation in the republican oil and gas industries. It took this decision due to crude violations of operating legislation and abuses by officials.

A special parliamentary commission established that the Ukrgazprom and Ukrneft joint stock companies, with "assistance" from the State Property Fund, privatised state-owned oil and gas enterprises.

Besides, they lay their hands on trunk gas pipelines, privatisation of which is prohibited by law. The commission found out that revenues from the operation of gas pipelines were mostly pocketed by the societies, bypassing the state treasury.

As a result, the legislature repealed all the decisions by the State Property Fund concerning privatisation in the oil and gas industry and instructed the Prosecutor-General's Office to conduct an investigation.

First Plant To Use Coal Waste Opens

WS0311093195 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0227 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Donetsk Oblast, Nov. 2 — The first plant in Ukraine for utilizing the waste of coal concentration was created in Torez. The co- founders of the enterprise are the Central Concentrating Plant of the Torezantratsyt industrial amalgamation and Partikel Jerwis from Great Britain.

The Ukrainian firm constructed the premises and partially equipped the plant, at a cost of US$ 250,000. The British partners contributed the technology of waste utilization, which based on using propeller-driven separators, in addition to delivering other equipment to be used in the plant.

Within the season, the joint venture hopes to produce 100,000 to 120,000 tons of secondary fuel resources. The partners will share income from the venture equally. The British concern is also studying the possible creation of similar enterprises on other concentrating plants in Ukraine.

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Belarus

EU High Commissioner on Admittance Into EU

LD0211164495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1634 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, Nov 2 (Interfax-West) — "Currently Belarus is on the farthest approaches from being admitted to the European Union," European commission member Hans van den Broek told Interfax in Minsk. Hans van den Broek arrived on a one-day working visit to Belarus and left Minsk for Chisinau on Thursday.

Hans van den Broek assumed that Belarus will be among candidates to be admitted to the EU "but it must not only ensure economic stability but implement democratic reforms." Repeated elections to deputies of Belarus' Supreme Soviet scheduled for late November may testify to such reforms, he said.

While proposing its cooperation with Belarus the European Union is granting the republic an opportunity to diminish its dependence upon the Russian market. This could have a favorable influence on Belarus' economic situation, Hans van den Broek said.

Earlier the European Union provided Belarus with financial aid worth 55 million ECU to cover the deficit of the balance of payments and about 40 million ECU to implement economic reforms.

Chyhir Outlines Agenda for Talks at CIS Summit

WS0211150895 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1300 GMT 2 Nov 95

[Interview with Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir by unidentified reporter at the Minsk-2 airport on 2 November — recorded — in Russian]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Reporter] Here is the first question. Could you tell what issues that are most important and urgent to Belarus will be discussed in Moscow [at a meeting of CIS countries' government leaders]?

[Chyhir] As everybody probably knows, the year 1995 is coming to an end, and we are primarily concerned over our entry into 1996. We are primarily concerned over prices for energy sources. This is certainly the most important issue we will attempt to discuss at the meeting with the Russians. I think that we will somehow agree that an increase in these prices will be insignificant — if there will be any at all — because a large increase in prices for energy sources would negatively affect our industry and economy. This is the main issue that will be discussed tomorrow and the day after tomorrow.

[Reporter] How would you comment on reports that the leaders of the Kazakh, Belarusian, and Russian governments want to appeal to other CIS countries' government leaders to join the customs union?

[Chyhir] The founding documents of the customs union say that other CIS countries can voluntarily join the customs union if they are willing to recognize the law on establishing it. Although such an appeal has actually been prepared, I must say that the procedure for joining the union is not easy. It is necessary to recognize all documents concerning the customs union and meet a number of requirements, some of which are quite difficult. And only if there is a full consent of the union's founders — Russia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan — is there a possibility that other CIS countries may join the union.

[Reporter] Are you going to hold any bilateral meetings with officials on other issues, outside the framework of this meeting?

[Chyhir] There are certainly such problems and issues. There are a number of problems regarding our relations with Ukraine, its domestic prices for a number of products. There are questions concerning our relations with Turkmenistan, because this state can deliver gas to Belarus, after [words indistinct]. If these talks succeed, there will be hope to resolve the issue of gas deliveries to Belarus from Turkmenistan. This will certainly improve the issue of payments for Russian gas. There are such problems, and they will be discussed at the meeting of government leaders. [passage omitted]

Official Reviews Gas Debt to Russia

WS0311093795 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0400 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As of today, Belarusian consumers' debts to Russia for 1994-95 gas deliveries reached $ 509.5 million, according to a statement by Belarusian Deputy Prime Minister Valeryy Kokaraw to NAFTAVA INFARMATSIYA Agency [oil information agency]. According to him, only 25 percent of this debt accounts for 1995 gas deliveries, despite the fact that this year Belarus reduced its gas consumption by 20 percent.

As the deputy prime minister stated, the main reason for the reduction in the rate of increase in the debt is the work conducted by the government with oblast councils, ministries, departments, concerns, and other bodies of state management that settle payments for gas deliveries.

In Valeryy Kokaraw's opinion, the reduction in debt was also triggered by the fact that gas prices for the

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industrial sector did not change over 1995. Moreover, since May, they have been reduced by over 17 percent compared with prices in early 1995.

Moldova

EU High Commissioner Voices Support for Reforms

LD0211220495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1842 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CHISINAU, Nov 2 (Interfax) — The European Union supports political and economic reforms in Moldova and is ready for more active cooperation, High Commissioner for Minorities at the European Commission Hans van den Broek announced at a Thursday news conference in Chisinau. He said bilateral relations would be promoted by the trade agreement signed by the EU and Moldova this year.

The EU plans to offer Moldova a 15 million ECU loan for keeping up the balance of payments in addition to the 45 million given for that purpose in 1994, said the official. The EU will continue technical assistance to Moldova next year, which amounted to 12 million ECU in 1995.

Hans van den Broek also stressed that stability in Europe is threatened by separatism as well as extreme nationalism bordering on racism.

He said the developments in the Balkans confirm the necessity of building a European home based on principles of tolerance, while attempts to build countries on ethnic or religious grounds can lead to a new war in Europe.

NATO Delegation Examines PFP Participation Option

AU0211150195 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 31 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau 31/11/1995 (BASA-press) — A NATO delegation comprising representatives of European armies led by Italian Army Colonel Carlo Greco is visiting Moldova to assess the possibilities of Moldova's participation in the "Partnership For Peace-PFP" program. During their meetings with Moldovan officials, the delegation will discuss possibilities of conducting peace keeping operations and humanitarian assistance programs, controlling flights and establishing cooperation between civil authorities and military command. They will be familiarized with the activity of Moldovan peace keepers, systems of civil defence, military instruction and training. Aspects of assisting Moldovan soldiers to study English will be also examined.

Viorel Cibotaru, Defence Ministry spokesman, stated to BASA-press that the visit will conclude on November 3. Tiraspol leader Igor Smirnov declared in his speech on October 29 during the Dniester All-Deputy Congress that NATO officers would participate in the military manoeuvres of the Moldovan Army. Defence Ministry representatives denied this in an interview to BASA-press.

Black Sea Economic Cooperation Ministers Meet in Chisinau

LD0111194495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1253 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Chisinau, 1 Nov (MOLDPRES-ITAR-TASS) — Issues of strengthening regional cooperation are being discussed at the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) members. The meeting opened in the Moldovan capital today.

The Foreign Ministers of Azerbaijan, Albania, Armenia, Bulgaria, Greece, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, Turkey, and Ukraine will discuss at the meeting ways of achieving the goals that were outlined by the heads of state and government of the countries of the region at the meeting that took place in Bucharest this June. Strengthening the legal base of the activities of Black Sea Economic Cooperation, the establishment of a regional bank for trade and development and other problems are among the tasks that will be discussed at the meeting.

Moldovan President Mircea Snegur addressed the opening of the meeting. Later, he met the foreign Ministers of the countries of Black Sea Economic Cooperation. The program of the meeting includes three working meetings. A news conference will take place at the end of the meeting.

Prime Minister Previews CIS Summit Topics

LD0211175895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1701 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CHISINAU, Nov 2 (Interfax) — A major issue to be discussed at the CIS summit, which opens in Moscow on Friday, is the work of interstate and intergovernmental institutions coordinating economic questions, said Moldova's Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli in Chisinau on Thursday before his departure for Moscow.

Unfortunately, such work is far from perfect, he pointed out. So far the mechanisms of the interstate economic committee have failed to work, he said.

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Moldova, he noted, intends to join several economic agreements in the framework of the CIS, such as the agreement on the common nomenclature of foreign trade and on the establishment of a common scientific and technical space.

In Moscow Moldova will sign the CIS memorandum on principles of cooperation in civil aviation, Sangheli said.

Gagauz Parliament Adopts Laws on Flag, Languages, Insignia

AU0211164295 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 31 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau 31/11/1995 (BASA-press) — The Gagauz Yeri People's Assembly adopted today the laws on Gagauz flag, members of Parliament status and languages spoken in Gagauz Yeri. Also the law on governor's representative was examined in the first reading. According to the law adopted unanimously, the flag is composed of horizontal unequal blue, red and white segments. Three golden stars are printed on the blue band.

Most objections were made to the draft law on governor's representative and district administration, as the new law might undermine the mandate of the current district structures. Some members of Parliament said the draft law "smacks of dictatorship." According to Art. 5 of the draft law, governor's representatives on field will be declared official person charged with administrative functions of leadership and control. He will have the right to approve local administration decisions and his orders will be compulsory for all individuals and legal entities.

Piotr Pashaly, chairman of the People's Assembly, said this stipulation is important due to the need to "strengthen the discipline at all levels, as an obligatory condition for the economic recovery and fight against delinquency and corruption." The draft was examined in the first reading.

The draft law on languages spoken in Gagauzia aroused controversial debates. On the eve of the session, the local press made public a variant of the law proposed by the Gagauz People's Party (PPG). It provided for the extension of Gagauz language use. PPG representatives said the official variant gives advantage to Russian and Romanian to the detriment of Gagauzian.

Georgi Stomatov, a former leader of the Gagauz-Khalky movement, suggested proclaiming Gagauzian and Russian official languages in Gagauzia.

According to the variant adopted today in Comrat, Gagauzian, Moldovan and Russian will be used on equal conditions. Today the members of Parliament adopted the decision on celebration of holidays in Gagauz Yeri.

Daily Fears Russian Elections Foster Dniester Separatism

AU0211163795 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1930 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, October 31 (INFO-TAG) — The speculations about the order of bringing Dniester back under the Moldovan jurisdiction were necessary solely to play for time — the time which works in favour of the separatist regime, Petru Bogatu, political analyst of the Popular Front's TARA newspaper wrote in today's issue.

"The Moscow-backed Tiraspol regime has been operating for several years by now, and is not inclined to yield power which, though not recognized internationally, is threateningly real and attractive on site," Bogatu wrote. "The hour is approaching which has been longed for by Tiraspol for 5 years."

In his opinion, the drastic changes are likely to follow after the forthcoming elections "which may change the political face of Russia. After the December elections, only a miracle may save Russia from the restoration of left-wing forces in the Kremlin. All political forecasts indicate the victory of communists and ultra-patriots from the Zhirinovskiy's and Lebed's camps whose electoral programmes contain an anti-West political doctrine," TARA writes. According to the newspaper, this doctrine envisages the restoration of the East-West opposition, establishment of a new block instead of the Warsaw Pact, and the restoration of the Soviet Union to include Russia, South-East Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Abkhazia, South Ossetia, and Dniester.

The analyst stressed that "the events may develop into an extremely dangerous situation for Moldova which should always bear in mind that the separatism in Dniester has a sufficiently solid social basis formed, by the way, not only of ethnic Russians." The pro-Romanian newspaper pointed out in conclusion that the Dniester problem cannot be solved separately from the Bessarabian problem.

LDPR Promises To Recognize Dniester Independence

LD0211141395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1241 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TIRASPOL, Nov 2 (Interfax) — The Deputy Chairperson of the State Duma security committee Nina Krivelskaya of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDPR] faction promised to help the Transdniester Region be recognized as independent.

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Addressing the Supreme Council of the self-proclaimed Transdniester Republic Wednesday evening, she proclaimed the need to assert the statehood of Transdniester Region.

Krivelskaya urged local residents who have Russian citizenship to vote for the Liberal Democratic Party at the upcoming State Duma elections. She said she hopes that the party led by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy will win and be able to achieve all its goals. According to her, these goals include efforts to restore a unified state in the territory of the former Russian Empire.

On Tuesday and Wednesday Russian deputies conferred with the leader of Transdniester Region Igor Smirnov, leading parliament members and spokesmen for local power structures and law enforcement agencies.

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Tajikistan

Rakhmanov: Reforms Will Fail Without Political Stability

LD0211211995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1645 GMT 2 Nov 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Anna Kovalyova, Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Boris Yunanov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Without political stability the economic reform will be skidding and crisis will persist, President [Emomali] Rakhmanov told the second session of the Tajik parliament Thursday.

He described the current economic situation as "serious". He remarked, however, that despite industrial decline, the bankruptcy suffered by many organizations and problems in implementing economic reforms, "positive changes" have occurred. Tajikistan has received more than $50 million from its foreign debtors and "has not borrowed a single cent from anyone" this year, he said.

The economic crisis can be overcome only in a situation of stability and tranquility, he went on to say.

He urged the conflicting parties to "end terror" and proposed, as a trial measure, to go to the Vanch region and deal with the terrorists. To ensure the implementation of the reforms, including the land reform, the legislative and executive authorities must act jointly, he said. He demanded that the deputies "end empty rhetoric and help implement the presidential decree on passing 50,000 hectares of farmland to individual owners."

Speaking about the factors slowing down the reform, he said that "local bureaucrats are hampering the implementation of more than 200 parliamentary resolutions." "This is our main problem," he said.

He said he attached great importance to foreign investments and to the efforts to accelerate economic development at all levels, and urged the deputies to work constructively to ensure economic restructuring. In his opinion, the government-proposed program for economic reform and switch-over to a market economy might be used as a guideline in this work.

The program for economic reform in Tajikistan for 1995-2000 was approved by the Tajik parliament.

"The only way of overcoming the crisis is to unite the political forces," said Rakhmanov. In most of the states, political parties are trying to reach a consensus during the time of trials, he said.

Foreign Ministry Condemns Opposition 'Terrorist Acts'

LD0211173395 Dushanbe KHOVAR in Russian 0900 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan:

For the past few days armed groups of the irreconcilable [Tajik] Islamic opposition have carried out another series of villainous terrorist acts against the military servicemen and civilians of the Republic of Tajikistan.

For instance, at 1630 on 31 October 1995 a freight vehicle carrying 11 militia employees and five civilians was fired on with a hand-held antitank grenade launcher and automatic firearms in the village of Bulkos in Garm district. As a result of this bandit act, the 11 militiamen and four of the civilians died, and one received a bullet wound.

During the night of 31 October-1 November a nurse from the central district hospital in Tajikabad district was hanged in her home by unknown members of an armed bandit group.

At 1910 on 1 November 1995 near the village of Sicharog in Komsomolabad district, two fighters from an antigovernment bandit group, armed with an automatic gun and a grenade launcher, stopped a Kamaz vehicle, which was proceeding along the Garm-Dushanbe route. The fighters forced the two militia employees inside the vehicle to get out, took away their official documents, and shot them dead.

The leadership of the Republic of Tajikistan expresses its sincere condolences to the relatives and friends of the people killed.

In Tajikistan these cases are being viewed as a gross violation by the Islamic opposition of their obligations under the agreement on a temporary cessation of fire and other hostile actions on the Tajik-Afghan border and inside the country and are regarded as a blatant move onto the path of overt armed terror.

We are obliged with regret to note that these terrorist groups and bandit formations are undergoing combat training in special camps located on the territory of some Islamic states.

The Tajik Government resolutely condemns these bandit acts against militia employees and civilians and appeals to the UN observers' mission in Tajikistan to give an appropriate assessment of these cases.

In the conditions of the continuing terrorist actions being carried out by the irreconcilable Islamic opposition, Tajikistan's Government reserves the right to use all

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possibilities in its power for taking resolute measures to prevent such actions in the future, for the sake of establishing peace and accord and ensuring the safety and constitutional rights and freedoms of the country's citizens.

Confirming its intention to continue the inter-Tajik negotiation process with the aim of achieving national reconciliation in the country, the Republic of Tajikistan once again calls on the leaders of the Islamic opposition to give up terrorist methods of settling the problems of Tajikistan and to opt for the path of peaceful dialogue.

Turkmenistan

Slovak Deputy Premier Praises Meetings Held in Ashgabat

LD0211184895 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 1100 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar ends a visit to Turkmenistan today. Our correspondent following the visit, Maria Mikusova, has asked Sergej Kozlik, deputy prime minister [and finance minister] for an assessment of today's discussions and negotiations. We apologize in advance, esteemed listeners, for the poor technical quality of the telephone dispatch.

[Mikusova] Slovak Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar kicked off the government delegation's program today by laying flowers at the war memorial in Ashgabat. The delegation then met the deputy prime ministers of the Turkmen Republic. Following the meeting, Slovak Deputy Prime Minister Sergej Kozlik — who was in Turkmenistan in May at the head of a Slovak trade delegation — compared the meetings he had then with those during the present visit:

[Begin Kozlik recording] We can now compare developments. The first question was a kind of reproach — why have we come so late — and certain misgivings about whether we have a genuine interest in developing our...[pauses] I would say that during this visit they are much more open, they appreciate that the interest on both sides is being confirmed, and the manner in which they accept our offers must be highly praised. They have already defined precisely their wishes concerning the areas in which they want to safeguard development. It is expected...[pauses] Both sides expressed an interest in the opening of a Slovak trade mission in Turkmenistan. We are not going to talk about [words indistinct] a consulate, we would prefer to [word indistinct] economic ties than political ties. The Republic of Turkmenistan [words indistinct] opening a trade mission in Slovakia.

As for the second meeting, with the foreign minister and now also deputy prime minister for foreign relations [words indistinct] [unidentified voice prompts Kozlik with name of Turkmen Foreign Minister Boris Shikhmuradov], Shikhmuradov, I can say that it was an extremely interesting meeting. I think Turkmenistan plays a special kind of role in the whole of Central Asia in that it pursues a neutral kind of policy. They balance out relations in the region, being a kind of buffer zone between the extremely conflicting interests of Russia, Iran, Turkey, and Uzbekistan. So they are finding their place and are doing well [words indistinct] neutrality [words indistinct] positive neutralism. They are not concealing the fact that they have to...[pauses] that cooperation with the Russian Federation is unavoidable, but on the other hand they do not want to...[pauses] they just want to maintain their neutral status, just as in their relations with Turkey and other countries.

It was a very interesting and open [words indistinct] Prime Minister Meciar stressed [words indistinct] hold the chairmanship of the Central European Free Trade Association and on the other hand [Turkmen President Saparmurad] Niyazov will be chairing the Economic Cooperation Organization, a group of [10] countries in this region. That means a kind of communication system for cooperation between these two groupings could be created. [end recording]

Foreign Minister, Slovakia's Meciar Discuss Economic Links

LD0211145695 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 1300 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An economic link between Central European and Central Asian regions via the Central European Free Trade Agreement could become a reality as early as before the end of this year. This is what Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar told Slovak journalists today after his talks with Turkmen government officials in Ashgabat.

Turkmen Foreign Minister Boris Shikhmuradov briefed Meciar about the idea of the so-called active neutrality pursued by Turkmenistan. Meciar described this policy as a factor stabilizing the situation in the region.

The two delegations reaffirmed interest in bilateral cooperation and in this respect they signed the first agreement on establishing a joint venture between Bukoza Vranov nad Toplou [Slovak timber processing company] and the Turkmen joint-stock company (Solnechnyy Dom).

Economic talks will culminate today by signing three intergovernmental agreements: on the prevention of double taxation, visa-free travel of diplomatic and official passports holders, and cooperation in combatting drug trafficking and terrorism.

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Agreement Signed With World Health Organization

LD0211173895 Ashgabat TURKMEN PRESS in Russian 1710 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ashgabat, 1 Nov (TURKMEN PRESS) — A memorandum on cooperation between Turkmenistan's Ministry of Health and the pharmaceutical industry, the European regional bureau of the World Health Organization, and the Turkish agency for international development, TIKA, was signed today in Ashgabat. The document envisages practical support in implementing the "Saglyk" [health] program, which was proclaimed by the president of Turkmenistan in June this year.

The World Health Organization has already participated in developing a number of projects in Turkmenistan, Dzho Erik Aspara [name indistinct], the director of the European regional bureau of the World Health Organization, told a TURKMEN PRESS correspondent. We welcome the policy of the Turkmen Government directed at improving the country's system of health protection. The documents signed today contain the main directions of cooperation for the next two years. First and foremost these are: Measures to change the work of all medical services, the so-called "Sindy" project, support of the national motherhood and childhood program, vaccination and solving problems connected with the unfavorable influence of the environment on the population's health, including the consequences of the Aral Sea catastrophe. I hope that cooperation between the World Health Organization and Turkmenistan will be very useful and fruitful.

Agreement Reached With Tajik Opposition To Continue Talks

LD0211172295 Ashgabat TURKMEN PRESS in Russian 0745 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A delegation of the united Tajik opposition headed by Haji Akbar Turajonzoda visited Ashgabat between 30 October and 1 November 1995 in accordance with agreements reached earlier and with the assistance of the United Nations.

The delegation was received by President Saparmurad Turkmenbashy [Niyazov] of Turkmenistan. During detailed talks approaches to holding an uninterrupted round of inter-Tajik talks were identified. Having set out his perception of the problem and of the means of achieving a political settlement to it, Turajonzoda asked the Turkmen president to make a contribution to the successful outcome of the inter-Tajik dialogue. The president of Turkmenistan showed understanding for the delegation's appeal and confirmed that his country was ready to become an observer at the inter-Tajik talks. Matters concerning refugees from Tajikistan were broached during the conversation.

The delegation of the united Tajik opposition agreed in principle that Ashgabat should become a venue for an uninterrupted round of the inter-Tajik dialogue.

It was decided during bilateral and trilateral talks held with the participation of the delegation of the united Tajik opposition; Boris Shikhmuradov, deputy chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and minister of foreign affairs of Turkmenistan; and Darko Silovic, the UN secretary general's deputy special envoy and head of the UN mission in Dushanbe, that consultations on starting the talks will be continued both with representatives of the opposition forces and with representatives of the Tajik Government, and of the other observer states at the inter-Tajik talks. Silovic, on behalf of the UN, underlined the pressing need to start these talks as soon as possible. In this regard it was emphasized that all the interested parties will make the greatest possible efforts to start them no later than 20 November this year.

The head of the united Tajik opposition delegation expressed his gratitude to the leadership of Turkmenistan and to President Saparmurad Turkmenbashy for being ready to render as much assistance as possible to ensure the successful outcome of the inter-Tajik dialogue.

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Armenia

Moscow TV Features Restart of Yerevan Nuclear Power Station

MM0211154695 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0800 GMT 30 Oct 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast: Video report from Yerevan by Ye.Sakhinov, identified by caption; figures in brackets denote broadcast time in GMT in hours, minutes, and seconds]

[FBIS Translated Text] [080422] [Sakhinov over video of cooling towers in middle distance, video captioned "Yerevan, Armenia 28.10.1995"] The media described the second startup of the Armenian nuclear power station, which was shut down in 1989, as an unprecedented event in the history of nuclear power engineering. After an interruption of six years the reactor of the second power unit was started up again. Electricity is available for only two hours per day at the moment. This has been the situation in Armenia for more than six years. According to the timetable the nuclear power station will take around two weeks to start producing electricity. In the course of 20 days, the station will gradually reach its rated capacity and will begin producing 9 million kilowatt-hours per day. The startup of the Armenian nuclear power station was made possible thanks to financial assistance from the Russian Government, the Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy, and numerous Russian scientific research and industrial organizations. It is not yet known whether the power supply to the population can be increased to between six and eight hours per day. [080515]

Nuclear Reactor Boosted to 'Planned' Capacity

NC0111193495 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The meticulous observations by experts from the state commission and the Russian atomic energy company revealed that the restoration work [at the Armenian nuclear power plant] has been accomplished with precision. An ARMENPRES correspondent was told this by Gagik Markosyan, the plant's chief engineer.

The state commission gave permission to increase the power of the second energy block to the planned level.

World Bank To Grant $50-$60 Million Credit for Reforms

LD0211204195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1507 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] YEREVAN, Nov 2 (Interfax) — The World Bank intends to grant a new credit worth $50-60 million to Armenia to support economic reforms in this republic, the government press service told Interfax.

Armenian Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan and the Bank's representative in charge of European and central Asian countries Jonathan Walters discussed the mechanism by which the bank extends credits during their meeting in Yerevan Thursday.

A credit for 35 years is supposed to be granted in 1996 in two stages, with an annual interest rate totaling 0,75 percent.

These funds will be used for transformations in the energy, education, financial and social spheres.

The World Bank already allocated a 60 million dollar credit to Armenia in April 1995 for economic stabilization.

Georgia

Talks on Abkazia Open Amid 'Constructive' Atmosphere

LD0211152095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1514 GMT 2 Nov 95

[By Yuriy Kozlov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW November 2 (Itar-Tass) — The first meeting of the new round of the talks on the Georgian-Abkhazian settlement, which opened here on Thursday [2 November], passed in a favourable, constructive atmosphere. This is said in a report of the Russian Foreign Ministry received by Itar-Tass.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov represented Russian mediators at the meeting. The Georgian delegation is led by envoy of the head of state, Georgian Ambassador to Russia Vazha Lordkipanidze. Taking part in the talks from the Abkhazian side is the delegation led by speaker of the Abkhazian parliament Sokrat Jinjoliya.

During the meeting on Thursday the sides set out their positions on fundamental matters of settlement and confirmed the readiness for a dialogue on a basis of the earlier achieved arrangements.

The exchange of opinions will be continued on Friday afternoon, it became known to Itar-Tass.

The sides participating in the talks above all refer to the statement on measures for political settlement of the conflict signed in Moscow in April 1994.

The Georgian side, specifically, confirms its adherence to the principle of granting to Abkhazia broad powers

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in the framework of the unified state on a basis of the Moscow accords. "It is yet early to speak of any specific results of the talks, but the Georgian side expects them to be promising," says a statement of the press service of the Georgian embassy in Russia received by Itar-Tass.

The Abkhazian side, in its turn, is going to conduct the dialogue with Georgia proceeding from the earlier signed documents on an equal basis. This is said in a report of the press service of the plenipotentiary representative of Abkhazia in Russia, received by Itar-Tass.

As is known, a regular round of the talks was to be held in Moscow on October 24, but the Abkhazian side refused to participate it it, demanding that the Russian frontier guards lift the "sea blockade" imposed earlier. During the further consultations the situation was eased and the Abkhazian leadership stated the readiness to continue the negotiations.

Meanwhile, head of the Georgian state Eduard Shevardnadze, speaking in Tbilisi at the forum of the Union of Georgian citizens on Thursday, said that the solution of the Abkhazian problem is the priority in the Georgian activity in international organisations. Shevardnadze is nominated for the presidency by the socio-political organisation, the Union of Georgian citizens. The presidential election are to be held on November 5.

Shevardnadze said that he favours peaceful settlement of the Abkhazian conflict. However, if the peaceful road does not lead to a positive solution, other means will have to be used to restore Georgia's territorial unity. Shevardnadze told the meeting that if elected President he will do his utmost to restore Georgia's territorial unity.

Mediator Meets Delegations Separately

LD0211225695 Moscow NTV in Russian 1600 GMT 2 Nov 95

[From the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent Pavel Luskanov] A new round of Abkhaz-Georgian talks began in Moscow today, two days before the presidential elections in Georgia. [passage omitted]

The Georgian and Abkhaz delegations did not meet today. They had talks one after the other in separate Foreign Ministry offices with the Russian mediator, Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov. The meetings were held behind closed doors, without the press.

The head of the Abkhaz delegation, Abkhaz parliament speaker [Sokrat Dzhindzholia], presented his side's position to us straight after the talks with Pastukhov.

[Begin [Dzhindzholia] recording] It is a matter of creating a union state in which Abkhazia and Georgia would be equal constituent parties. [end recording]

[Luskanov] But the head of the Georgian delegation, Georgian ambassador to Moscow Vazha Lordkipanidze, does not intend even to discuss the issue of a confederate structure for Georgia, especially as it contradicts the recently adopted constitution.

[Begin Lordkipanidze recording] We say that Georgia is united, Abkhazia has always been within Georgia. We are ready to give the broadest powers, the broadest powers to constituent parts of the federation. [end recording]

[Luskanov] Tbilisi is clearly trying to use the issue of Russian military bases on Georgian territory to bring pressure to bear on Russia while Abkhazia can promise to stop rail traffic on the strategically important sector of the railway linking Russia with Georgia and Armenia.

The Georgian and Abkhaz delegations will finally meet at the negotiating table tomorrow. This is good news but the bad news is that Russia, having taken on the role of mediator, is as before acting not so much out of strategic interests as out of short-term ones. Both the Abkhaz and the Georgians are not in the mood for constructive dialogue in this situation. Their task is to enlist Moscow's support.

Russia Under 'Dual Pressure'

MK0211142895 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 2 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by Leonid Velekhov: "Sukhumi and Tbilisi Increase Pressure on Moscow. On the Eve of a New Round of Talks, Georgia and Abkhazia Show No Readiness for a Compromise"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today in Moscow a new round of Georgian-Abkhaz negotiations, held through the mediation of Russia, is to begin. It will be recalled that this round was supposed to be held as early as the beginning of September, but it was frustrated since the Abkhazians, upon arrival in Moscow, said that they had to go back to Sukhumi for consultations with their parliament. After this, Boris Pastukhov, deputy foreign minister of the Russian Federation, acting as a mediator at the negotiations, made a harsh statement accusing them of disrupting the negotiating process and cherishing secret hopes of "stalling for time, in anticipation of some changes in Russia."

The new round appeared to be in jeopardy again a few days ago, when the Abkhazians declared that they refused to come to Moscow until the sea blockade by

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ships of the Russian Border Troops naval forces, over a 10-mile zone along the Sukhumi waterfront and in the roads, was lifted. In reply to the statement made by Andrey Nikolayev, director of the Russian Federation Federal Border Service, denying any blockade, the Abkhaz side placed at its disposal the numbers painted on the sides of the Russian border ships on combat duty in the Sukhumi roads and in Ochamchiri port. The factual argumentation must have worked, and on Monday [30 October], so reports from Sukhumi say, the blockade was lifted and sea communication between Sukhumi and the Turkish port of Trabzon — which is a "lifeline" for Abkhazia under the situation whereby the Russian-Georgian border in its Abkhaz sector is closed for cargo transportation — was resumed.

The Georgian side, however, has also been increasing its pressure on Russia. On Tuesday [31 October] Eduard Shevardnadze said that a new Georgian parliament to be elected on 5 November "would hardly" ratify the treaty on the deployment of Russian military bases on the territory of the republic, unless Georgian jurisdiction were restored in Abkhazia — which Russia has a "real capacity" to do. The Georgian leader also said that as early as December the parliament would consider the question of Russian peacekeeping troops' presence in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone and that if, by then, the troops had taken no measures to bring Georgian refugees back to Abkhazia (in other words, to restore Georgian power in Sukhumi), "the parliament would raise the question of their withdrawal from Georgian territory."

Despite the growing dual pressure on Russia, on the eve of the negotiations the conflicting sides themselves show no inclination to compromise. Sukhumi continues to insist on a confederate structure for a Georgian-Abkhaz state, which is completely unacceptable to Tbilisi. Judging by the careful forecasts made by Anri Jergenia, general prosecutor of Abkhazia, who is participating in the negotiations, the new round "will probably be more successful" than previous ones and, "possibly, an intermediate version of the document on measures for a political settlement of the conflict will be prepared."

U.S. Official Confirms U.S. Stance on Territorial Integrity

LD0211174195 Tbilisi SAKINFORM in Russian 0846 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [No dateline as received] — A U.S. delegation headed by James Collins [the U.S. Secretary of State's special adviser on relations with new independent states] has been received by Georgian Foreign Minister Aleksandre Chikvaidze. A broad scope of issues relating to the prospects of comprehensive cooperation between the two countries was discussed at the meeting. Speaking of the conflict in Abkhazia, Collins said that his country supported Georgia's territorial integrity. According to the press service of the Georgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Collins stressed the importance of the reforms and the process of democratization currently under way in Georgia.

OSCE Envoy Assures Abkhazia's Ethnic Georgians on Elections

LD0211192395 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1500 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi, 2 Nov — Dieter Boden, OSCE envoy to Georgia, held a briefing at the Metekhi Palace Hotel on 2 November.

The envoy said that a big job has been done in Georgia to prepare the elections. The OSCE has delegated 100 observers to Georgia whose principal task is to oversee democratic elections in the country. According to the envoy, the OSCE has set up its regional offices in Zugdidi, Batumi, and Kutaisi.

Speaking of the ethnic Georgian residents of Gali District [Abkhazia], Dieter Boden said that appropriate conditions will be created to give every ethnic Georgian an opportunity to cross the so-called border along the Inguri River [currently separating Abkhazia and Georgia] without any hindrance and participate in the elections.

In Dieter Boden's opinion, certain difficulties might occur in holding elections in so-called South Ossetia. However, the envoy hopes that the observers will spare no efforts to prevent any attempt at provocation by the Ossetian side.

As far as the Kodori gorge [mountainous area in northeastern Abkhazia populated by ethnic Georgians] is concerned, there will be no OSCE observers in the area since the gorge is not covered by OSCE monitoring.

D. Boden said that a certain sum of money was allocated from the funds of the OSCE Georgian mission as well as from the OSCE Vienna head office. The envoy did not specify the amount of money allocated for the purpose.

Shevardnadze Calls For 'Sweeping' Economic, Social Reforms

LD0211211895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1645 GMT 2 Nov 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze links the newly-emerging positive shifts in

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the country's economy with wider powers the parliament vested on him, Shevardnadze said in an almost three-hour long speech to members of the Union of Georgian Citizens party he leads.

Shevardnadze made it clear he was not bothered by opposition charges of usurping power. "I agree to such usurping if it carries only good", he said.

The Georgian leader unveiling his election platform for the Sunday presidential poll in which he is a candidate said it provides for sweeping economic and social reforms.

In his view, the Georgian president must act as guarantor of democratic achievements. He said if he wins the post, his main task will be to protect the country's constitution and laws and restore its integrity. Shevardnadze promised Georgian would become a unitary, strong and prospering state.

He reaffirmed commitment to resolving conflicts in a political way but did not rule out a military option against Abkhazia if what he called the separatist regime in Sukhumi rejects peace talks.

Indicatively, Shevardnadze reiterated three times that the restoration of Georgian sovereignty was its constitutional right recognized by the international community.

On domestic issues, Shevardnadze said his five-year platform provides for stronger defenses and stiff order and discipline. He pledged active cooperation with parliament warning against the election of members of criminal rings to the new legislature.

Shevardnadze hopes for the formation of a parliamentary majority which will cooperate with the head of state.

In the event of his election, Shevardnadze promised to preserve the existing institution of presidential envoys to the regions.

On the economic front, Shevardnadze held out promises of increasing national income to an annual $3 billion by the year 2000 with average earnings rising from 10 laris to 200 laris.

He said Georgia would turn into a thriving state in ten years from now and there would be no poor sections by the turn of the century.

He promised up to one million new jobs in five years' time and cut profit tax to 40 percent as a way of providing production incentives.

On export earnings and foreign investment, Shevardnadze suggested his country would derive huge profits from transit charges after a Eurasian oil pipeline was laid down, part of it passing via Georgia.

Shevardnadze said his decision to run for the Georgian presidency came on August 29 in the wake of an assassination attempt against himself. He said now was the time to stop those who planned the massacre in Tbilisi, the downfall of Sukhumi and terrorist attack against himself.

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Estonia

Riigikogu Officials Receive Swedish Defense Minister

LD0211174295 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1500 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Swedish Defense Minister Thage Peterson held talks in Tallinn today with Toomas Savi, chairman of the Riigikogu. The Riigikogu press service reports that Peterson expressed satisfaction with the speedy solution to the government crisis in Estonia. He said that this demonstrated the strength of Estonia as a democratic state, and played a significant part in Estonia's relations with other countries.

Peeter Lorents, chairman of the Riigikogu State Defense Commission, who took part in the meeting, said that, among defense issues, Estonia's will to take part in UN peacekeeping missions deserved to be mentioned. The problem, however, is the level of technical equipment in training centers, Lorents said. He expressed the hope that cooperation with the Scandinavian countries would help to improve the situation.

Peterson said that cooperation with the Baltic Peacekeeping Battalion is an excellent example of cooperation.

Swedish Minister Discusses Weapons Sale

LD0211221395 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Swedish Defense Minister Thage Peterson is visiting Estonia. After his meetings with Riigikogu [parliament] Speaker Toomas Savi and Defense Minister Andrus Oovel, Thage Peterson gave a news conference. Here is Erik Samel with details:

[Samel] [passage omitted] Thage Peterson stated that there are no major problems in Estonian-Swedish relations:

[Begin Peterson recording in Swedish fading into Estonian summary] Indisputably, relations between Estonia and Sweden are very good. However, in the Swedish defense minister's opinion, it is useful to meet from time to time.

[Samel] According to Defense Minister Andrus Oovel, there were three major subjects discussed at the meetings:

[Begin Oovel recording] ...assistance in building up the Estonian national defense forces, cooperation so as to ensure international peace via peacekeeping and peace-enforcement operations under the UN aegis, and possibilities for providing joint assistance and being prepared for rescue operations in any crisis situation. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

[Samel] There were no documents signed this time. [passage omitted]

Possibilities for Estonia to purchase weapons from Sweden were also under discussion at the news conference. [passage omitted]

In Andrus Oovel's opinion, Estonia could do with more weaponry:

[Begin Oovel recording] Regardless of what was perhaps the largest arms deal in Estonian history, with Israel, the Estonian defense forces are today in serious difficulty due to the lack of anti-tank and anti-aircraft weapons. Our budget for the next four years will not allow any substantial expenses for extra weapons, and for this reason, we must count here on either the Riigikogu deciding that additional funds will be allocated and state defense expenses increased, or on help from our good neighbors in donating to us anti-tank and anti-aircraft weapons. [end recording]

Defense Planning Discussed With Ukrainian Military Group

LD0211180195 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1400 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The delegation of the general staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces and the Ministry of Defense, which arrived in Estonia [1 November], met representatives of the Estonian Ministry of Defense and the general staff of Defense Forces this morning.

The visitors met Lieutenant General Aleksander Einseln, the commander of the Defense Forces, and Colonel Arvo Sirel, the chief of general staff of the Defense Forces.

In the afternoon, the Ukrainian delegation met members of the Riigikogu State Defense Commission.

The meetings discussed the issue of planning defense of both states and matters of military education and training, and also the peace-time development and management of defense forces. The representatives of both states briefed each other on the current state of defense policy of their states and directions for development.

Relations With Lithuania Effected by Government Change

WS0211145895 Tallinn BNS in English 1000 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Nov 1, BNS — Changes of government in Estonia are not an advan-

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tage in relations with Lithuania, parliament Chairman Toomas Savi told reporters in Tallinn upon his return from a visit to that Baltic state.

"On the other hand, nothing so shattering as to put our relations on hold has happened," he noted.

Savi said his visit to Lithuania resulted in agreement over several problems concerning the Baltic Assembly. "They concern bringing about an improvement in the relations between the three Baltic states," he said.

The Estonian parliamentary delegation headed by Savi spent three days in Lithuania. The group attended Monday the unveiling of a memorial to the defenders of Lithuania's independence.

Savi met Tuesday with Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas to discuss domestic problems of the two states.

They exchanged views on the correlation of political forces, systems of presidential elections and the relations between ruling and opposition forces in both countries.

The Estonian parliament speaker brought Brazauskas up to date on the formation of Estonia's new government.

Savi gave a speech in the Lithuanian Seimas (parliament) Tuesday. He said the principal task of the Baltic Assembly and the Baltic Council of Ministers is to coordinate the three Baltic states' efforts toward accession to the European Union.

He voiced concern over the protection of the Baltics' eastern borders and the transparency of the frontiers.

At a meeting between Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius and Savi on Tuesday, the two exhanged opinions on the relations between the Lithuanian administration and parliament and between the government and the media.

Savi also visited the Estonian Embassy in Vilnius and the city of Kaunas.

Latvia

Gailis, Slezevicius Seek To Stop Deteriorating Relations

LD0211150295 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1400 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Latvian and Lithuanian prime ministers believe that relations between the two countries should not be allowed to deteriorate further. This view was expressed by Prime Minister Maris Gailis and Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius during their telephone conversation today. Gailis proposed to tackle the problems that have arisen with the help of international arbitration. The Lithuanian prime minister did not object to that.

Relations between Latvia and Lithuania have deteriorated after Latvia signed a license agreement allowing the U.S. company Amoco and the Swedish firm OPAB to look for oil on the continental shelf, which Lithuania considers to be disputed territory. Latvia has stressed that the agreement stipulates the exploration will not begin until an agreement on the maritime border has been reached with Lithuania.

Spokesman Criticizes Lithuanian Response to Oil Agreement

LD0211142195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1214 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] RIGA, Nov 1 (Interfax) — Latvia's Foreign Ministry spokesman Rihards Muctins has described as too strong Lithuania's response to Latvia's signing an agreement with the U.S. company AMOCO and the Swedish company OPAB on the exploration and development of an oil field on the Baltic sea shelf. He said this to Interfax, commenting on the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry's summons of its ambassador from Riga to Vilnius for a consultation.

Muctins noted that the Latvian side would be "ready to sit down at the negotiating table to define a sea border between Latvia and Lithuania any time."

Meanwhile, Latvia's Foreign Minister Valdis Birkavs declared yesterday that no work on the Baltic shelf would start until a bilateral sea frontier treaty had been signed.

Experts believe the shelf, a bone of contention between Latvia and Lithuania, contains an oil deposit. However, exploratory work on the shelf has never begun because three years of bilateral negotiations on the definition of a sea frontier and delimitation of economic zones for the two countries have brought no results.

Lithuania has repeatedly protested to Latvia, charging it with one-sidedness in preparing the disputed territories for use.

Foreign Minister Writes on Integration With Europe

WS0211145795 Tallinn BNS in English 1000 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, Nov 2, BNS — Latvia will continue to pursue integration into European bodies, primarily the European Union and NATO, the Baltic nation's Foreign Minister Valdis Birkavs said.

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At the same time, Latvia will try to become a trade bridge linking the East and the West, Birkavs wrote in an article published by the Diena (Day) daily.

Latvia has created all preconditions for political will and respective reforms to prepare the country for entrance into the EU, according to Birkavs.

"(The process of integration into the EU) will facilitate the fulfillment of the fundamental needs of the Latvian people, preserve its integrity and raise its living standard," the minister said.

In Birkavs' opinion, EU membership for Latvia will also open the doors of NATO for the former Soviet republic.

"The West, perceiving Latvia as an eventual member of the EU, also views it as a future member of NATO," the minister said.

"And that is why (...) the dialog with the EU will also help Latvia to develop into a country (...) which corresponds to criterea of the North Atlantic alliance member," Birkavs noted.

Simultaneously, Birkavs underscores the necessity to step up relations with Russia mainly in the economic sphere.

Currently, this tendecy is obstructed by "political and economic instability" and the spread of organized crime in Latvia's eastern neighbor.

Nevertheless, Birkavs claims he believes that Latvia will succeed in becoming an economic bridge between the EU and the CIS countries.

To be ready to assume the role, Latvia should develop an adequate infrastructure, according to the minister.

"A truly advanced and improved transit sphere, like ports and transportation routes, could become a real turning point in Latvia's life," Birkavs wrote.

The Latvian government has already drafted a multi-million-lat program for boosting the transport sector.

The project is hoped to attract substantial investments and create new jobs, the minister added.

Saeima Creates Commission on European Affairs

LD0211133195 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1000 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Saeima made amendments to its standing order, setting up a commission on European affairs. Its task will be to bring Latvian legislation into line with European Union standards. The commission will also be following Latvia's integration into European structures. At the same time, the Saeima abolished the Commission on the Environment and Public Affairs, stating that environmental issues for which it is responsible will in future be dealt with by the Commission on the National Economy, and public affairs will be dealt with by the Commission on Human Rights.

Lithuania

Latvian Envoy Recalled To Protest Oilfield Contract

LD3110180695 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1700 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lithuania decided to recall its ambassador in Riga, Rimantas Karazija, for consultations to clarify the present state of relations with Latvia. Lithuania took this decision after the Latvian Government, taking no notice of Lithuania's protests, signed a contract today with the U.S. company Amoco and the Swedish firm OPAB on oil exploration in the shelf of the Baltic Sea, which is in disputed territory.

Such a diplomatic measure [words indistinct] and which constitutes serious warning about deteriorating relations, was taken by Lithuania for the first time since the re-establishment of Lithuanian independence.

It is clear Latvia's behavior is not in the spirit of good neighborly cooperation and Baltic solidarity, Lithuanian Deputy Foreign Minister Albinas Januska told the Baltic News Service. According to him, Ambassador Karazija must return to Vilnius as soon as 2 November. In the meantime, another official will be appointed to head the embassy in Riga. Asked when the ambassador is to return to Riga, Januska did not name any particular date.

(?There are some issues) that are unclear about the essence of the contract signed by Latvia. Among them, there is a question whether Lithuania's interests and sovereignty were violated, since Latvia did not present any official information despite Lithuania's repeated addresses and manifestations of concern [words indistinct], Januska said.

Brazauskas Briefs EU Envoys on Dispute

LD0211212395 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1500 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas met the ambassadors of the EU countries today, the presidential spokeswoman reported. At the meeting, which took place at the residence of Italian Ambassador Franco Tempesta, Lithuania's integration into European and trans-Atlantic structures and the development of Lithuania's relations with neighboring countries was discussed.

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The Lithuanian president stressed that full and indivisible [as heard] membership in the European Union is one of the main goals of Lithuanian foreign policy. Lithuania is preparing for this by adjusting its laws and state structures to European standards. The president noted several vital interests of Lithuania on its path to the European Union.

Speaking about NATO, the President noted that the countries which have signed the European Agreement and are associated partners of the Western European Union represent the prospective area for NATO expansion. President Algirdas Brazauskas urged that the opportunity for expanding the European zone of prosperity, security, and stability to the East should be, by a joint effort, put to good use.

Italian Ambassador Tempesta, who is currently the head of EU ambassadors in Lithuania, favorably assessed Lithuania's efforts and its chances to become an EU member in the near future. The ambassador assured that the expansion of the European Union by inclusion of its present associate members is a question which has already been agreed upon.

At the request of the EU ambassadors, the president commented on Lithuania's relations with Latvia and the dispute on delimitation of boundaries of the economic zone [in the Baltic Sea]. The president said that in his view, the situation should not be portrayed as dramatic. He expressed the hope that, even with some circumstances having changed, there is a good chance for solving this problem, taking into consideration the legitimate interests of both countries. The ambassadors agreed with this point of view and noted that similar disputes over economic interests have occurred between EU countries more than once.

Premier Favors International Arbitration

LD0211191395 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1430 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius held a news conference at the government offices today. Vincenta Dapkiene has a report.

[Dapkiene] The prime minister started by describing the most essential problems facing the government. [passage omitted]

Answering the question about relations with Latvia, about the agreement and problems of oil exploration on the Baltic shelf, the prime minister said:

[Begin Slezevicius recording] Latvian Prime Minister [Maris Gailis] called me this morning and we had a conversation. As you know, last week the Latvian prime minister assured us that no agreements [on oil exploration in the disputed Baltic Sea territory] will be signed [by Latvia], but what happened was just the opposite. That is why we had to recall our ambassador to Latvia [Rimantas Karazija], for consultations, and we did so.

Obviously, we have to examine the contents of that agreement very closely, and we agreed with Mr. Gailis that representatives, or, better to say, heads and experts of our Ministry of Foreign Affairs, together with representatives of the majority and opposition parties of the Seimas, will go to Riga next week and examine the contents of the agreement there.

Mr. Gailis once again confirmed that the points upon which we agreed earlier are still valid, i.e., that the exploration activities in the disputed economic zone can be started no sooner than the state border between Latvia and Lithuania in the economic zone is agreed upon. There is also another point [agreed upon earlier], which is that any exploration work is possible only upon ratification of the agreement on the border line by the Lithuanian Seimas.

Our step of recalling the ambassador is, in some sense, the answer to the decisions taken by them. The Latvians were the first to make this decision on signing the contract. Obviously, we cannot tell the Latvians what contracts they should sign, and neither can they tell us, but full information about the contents of the contract could have been submitted earlier. Such consultations of experts as those planned for next week should not be taking place after the signing of a contract, and I had earlier proposed this to Mr. Gailis. However, I understand that a certain political situation in Latvia forced my Latvian counterpart to make this decision. But I have to note once again that this behavior does not represent good-neighborly relations. [end recording]

[Dapkiene] According to the prime minister, relations with Latvia should be made and maintained constructive and normal, as they were before. Discussing the possibility of solving the problem by arbitration, the prime minister said:

[Begin Slezevicius recording] There are only two ways of getting this problem solved: Either via bilateral agreement, which is so far rather complicated, or by international arbitration, which is a very commonly used and acceptable method. [passage omitted] [end recording]

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Brazauskas Denies Support For Russia's Security Proposal

LD0111191995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1646 GMT 1 Nov 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, and edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There is no alternative to rapprochement of Lithuania and NATO. The reports on Vilnius readiness to support Russian proposals on creation of new European security systems are pure fantasy, President Algirdas Brazauskas told national TV Tuesday evening.

(A reason for this statement is the reports of the Russian RIA - News agency claiming Brazauskas told the news agency in New York during the jubilee session of the U.N. General Assembly he is ready to support Russian President Yeltsin's ideas of new European security structures. The reports were widely considered by the West).

In the words of Brazauskas, Lithuania will keep to the stand outlined in January 1994, when the republic officially announced its intention to join NATO.

The President described the pronouncements ascribed to him by the news agency as "unlimited fantasies." In his words, the citing of "allegedly my thoughts" on the Lithuanian search for an alternative guarantee of its own security "have nothing in common with what I said."

"NATO and the West European Union are the two organizations which are ensuring security both in Western Europe and, to a large degree, in the Baltic region," said Brazauskas. He stressed "I have always said and will continue saying this."

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